REMARKS

ON THE

CAUSE AND PROGRESS

OF THE

SCARCITY and DEARNESS of CATTLE, SWINE, CHEESE, &c. &c.

AND OF THE ARTICLES

TALLOW CANDLES AND SOAP;

POINTING OUT

Divers Modes for Remedy, and to prevent such Calamity in future; being the Result of great Experience, acquired by Dealing at Fairs and Markets, &c. &c. during the last Thirty-seven Years.

HUMBLY DEDICATED

To the PRIME MINISTER *of* ENGLAND,

In behalf of the Community at large, more or less interested therein: together with HINTS for the Consideration of Persons having Landed Property, and Dealers in Cattle.

By J. MATHEWS.

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TO THE RIGHT HON. WILLIAM PITT,

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, &c. &c.

SIR,

OUR moſt gracious Sovereign having been pleaſed to expreſs his approbation of perſons coming forward with any circumſtances tending to benefit ſociety; and much having been ſaid concerning ſcarcity and dearneſs of live ſtock, alſo of the prices paid for their productions uſed for human food, and for real neceſſaries, without diſcovering to what it has been owing; information of the true cauſe, (acquired by experience) and remedy, may not be unwelcome to you.

As a plain-dealing man, I venture to ſay, I believe the welfare of this country is your earneſt and unremitting ſtudy; alſo that during your being prime miniſter of England, you have had greater embarraſſments to encounter, owing to great fallings off of income to the revenue, and perhaps greater out-goings, occaſioned by ſcarcity and dearneſs of cattle, than any of your predeceſſors.

By real ſcarcity of full grown ſtock in weſtern counties, there has been a greater demand and conſumption of yonng meat for the food of the day

through the divers routs up to London, where ſales thereof have exceeded by many tons weight weekly. Thoſe prior to 1795, *which may manifeſt to you a real deficiency of the former, and that very great difficulty to keep up ſufficient ſupplies of proviſions for the metropolis cannot fail to enſue, provided jobbing be not permitted in certain inſtances.*

Such being the caſe, I humbly preſume to dedicate the following ſheets to you; hoping they will be found to contain matter worthy of your conſideration; and alſo of your ſucceſſors.

It has been ſaid that every body ſhould endeavour to aſſiſt his Majeſty's miniſters, to redreſs ſuch grievances. That this my mite, may—through your means—effect its aim, viz. PLENTY, *which bleſſing would produce general welfare, and moſt aſſiſt you, is the prayer of, Sir,*

With proper deference and ſubmiſſion,

Your devoted, obedient,

And very humble ſervant,

J. MATHEWS.

PREFACE.

AUTHORS have from divers motives written books; for we find that hiſtory, arithmetic, geometry, aſtronomy, poetry, and other ſubjects truly valuable, have been penned for the entertainment or the uſe of mankind, by learned and experienced perſons.

Improvements have been the reſult of writing on culture and implements for huſbandry, whilſt utility in croſſing breeds of cattle, has been ſet forth, however contrary to nature and the true intereſt of the nation.

At this period, after a great out-cry concerning the ſcarcity of cattle, ſwine, articles of table food, as well as other neceſſaries, which are the productions thereof; a well meant attempt to ſhew the cauſe thereof, may not be deemed amiſs.

Explanation the moſt ſatisfactory is likely to enſue from the pen of one greatly experienced in the affairs concerning cattle, ſwine, cheeſe, and the qualities thereof; alſo with fair chance dealing at fairs and markets.

To explain the true cauſe of ſuch ſcarcity and dearneſs, and to ſtate the neceſſary and effectual remedy thereof, is worthy of the ableſt writer's pen. But want of knowledge has hitherto prevented ſuch an undertaking, or no doubt ſuch a work would have been produced before the price of proviſions, &c. had attained to ſuch a pitch of enormity as the public have experienced almoſt generally ſince the year 1789.

New ſubjects, publiſhed by approved authors, have a claim on public attention, and are moſt likely to merit the public good opinion. I have no pretenſions to either. Nevertheleſs, arrogating to myſelf nothing further than the boaſt of experience, gained in a ſituation, whereby alone can be obtained due knowledge for ſuch a work, I preſume for public good, and being an advocate for the diſtreſſed, to lay before the community, that cauſe, in hopes of being the means of augmenting proviſions ſo effectually as to prevent ſuch embarraſſments in future, moſt reſpectfully entreating that a well intended narrative, or chain of circumſtanial facts, may be ſo happy as to gain the candid reader's approbation, it being written on the ground of thirty-ſeven years experience, with a view of being uſeful to ſociety, by producing future benefits, namely, permanent plenty of cattle, ſwine, &c. &c. for ſufficient choice of animal food, at moderate prices.

War has been an object of conſideration, but to increaſe proviſions, which muſt be done by an increaſe of cattle to ſupport war, and preſerve us from diſtreſſes, ſuch as a neighbouring kingdom as

exhibited (chiefly) on account of ſcarcity or dearneſs of proviſions, is a ſtill more important object. Newſpapers have ſtated, that the ſcarcity and dearneſs of proviſions, and articles made with tallow, were occaſioned by ſaleſmen buying up living fat cattle at Smithfield; alſo at diſtant fairs and markets, keeping back certain numbers from being expoſed for ſale, thereby producing appearances of ſhort markets to enhance prices.

At divers fairs and markets, where chance threw me in the way of dealers, I have heard various opinions concerning the appearance of approaching ſcarcity and dearneſs, moſt perſons agreeing in the neceſſity that its progreſs ſhould be ſtopped, and many expreſſed a hope that ſome well diſpoſed perſon would attempt to provide a remedy that might produce ſufficiencies if but to permit of moderation in prices only.

Some have ſaid that the increaſe and goodneſs of turnpike roads have been injurious, nay, had occaſioned ſcarcity of cattle, dearneſs, &c. whilſt others have given as their opinion, that ſuch roads were beneficial.

Others have advanced, that the number of horſes bred and kept in England and Wales, have occaſioned thoſe calamities. Others have ſuppoſed that advanced rents were the origin of dearneſs, but could not account for ſcarcity.

Others have aſſerted, that too many calves and lambs are killed yearly for food, and that the ſtrong arm of Parliament could alone remedy ſuch an evil.

Others have declared that ſcarcity and dearneſs of ſtock and grain aroſe from farmers occupying individually at one and the ſame time, over large or too many farms: others have attributed the origin of ſcarcity and dearneſs to jobbing, foreſtalling and monopolizing in the retail way, whilſt at a loſs for the ground work, the deep rooted cauſe which has been the means of introducing ſuch practices long before the American war commenced.

War, the diſuſe of ox, ſteer, or heifer teams, and luxurious living have ſeverally been adduced as the cauſe of ſuch calamities. In ſhort, obſervations have occurred, the enumeration of which would make this preface too tedious, and after all appear but little (if any how) to the purpoſe.

Seeing the acres remain, moſt perſons agree that abuſes do ſomewhere exiſt, and that remedy is needful: wherefore at a time of extraordinary embarraſſments, I conceive that it would be a crime, were I to be ſilent, and that I do but my duty, by endeavouring to ſet right miſguided minds, by ſhewing what I know concerning the cauſe of ſcarcity and dearneſs, as well as by adducing effectual remedies, which the heads of the nation and the public may adopt.

Laying aſide ridicule, or offence to any party, I write, not doubting to ſet the public mind right upon the ſubject.

In additions to ſuch obſervation it appears, that great ſcarcity of cattle was viſible at Smithfield on the two market days immediately preceding Chriſtmas, 1794, and that an inſufficient number of living fat cattle appeared on thoſe two particular days,

to ſupply the neighbouring butchers who came thither to purchaſe: upon which two ſaid market days yearly, it has always been a cuſtom for ſaleſmen and graziers, to provide a greater number of bullocks than on any other days of the year, as it were to welcome Chriſtmas, a time when the nobility, gentry, &c. of England, (as cuſtomary) obſerved hoſpitality, have bountifully given the comfortable remains of their tables to ſatisfy the appetites of their poor neighbours; which practice upon one or more days weekly throughout the year, was heretofore much uſed: whereas, real benevolent gentry, &c. inclined to keep up ſuch laudable hoſpitality, by extraordinary dearneſs have found the ſame inconvenient, whereby their neighbouring poor have loſt the ſight and taſte of meat many weeks together, a circumſtance no doubt grievouſly afflicting to charitably diſpoſed perſons: wherefore, ſince there ſeems almoſt general departure from moderation, yet deſire to find out the cauſe which has occaſioned a ſcarcity of live ſtock, thereby affecting the London markets more ſeverely, than country markets. Since no publication has come to my hand, treating candidly on a weighty national concern: viz. unſeaſonable diminution of calves and lambs, nor recommending the much wanted ſyſtem of breeding and rearing ſtock, (God willing) I put together my remarks, hoping at my country's call to ſerve her, however difficult the taſk. Hoping alſo that criticiſms will be ſpared, and that better ſcholars, approved authors, and the public will admit this attempt (which is meant for public good) laudable.

For that purpoſe, for quieting the minds of the people, eſpecially thoſe ſituated ſo as not to have the knowledge where the evils, which have produced ſuch diſaſters have originated, I write, to point out the cauſe and remedy for the ſame. To ſhew ſure modes for reſtoring herds, flocks, poultry, making of cheeſe, &c. being the true road towards plenty of proviſions, common neceſſaries, and to find cheapneſs. Intending to ſtate the times of plenty and cheapneſs, ſcarcity and dearneſs: the progreſs of the latter, to prove that rearing of cattle, will promote the rearing of ſwine, and the making of cheeſe and butter, may be confided in as practicable, and to be depended on, for a proper ſupply of food, &c. &c.

To accord with the works of dear ſimple nature, ſuch a change cannot fail—like unawares—to promote the growth of wheat, whereby that moſt needful, will ſpeedily appear as becoming plenty, faſter than ſuch fell off.

Omitting objects abſurd or imaginary, I ſhall ſhew my contrivance, how more general ſtock rearing may beſt be ſet on foot, to produce permanent full ſhews of ſtock, and cheeſe, which when plenty will appear to have cauſed a cheap loaf, but when ſcarce the contrary, the community will find it beſt for certain, of all things patiently to abide the teſt.

Conſidering the age, and growth of cattle and ſwine neceſſary for the beſt proviſions, an alteration will appear at the markets and fairs, by the growing plenty of herds and flocks, in moſt counties of Great Britain; but particularly in thoſe counties of exceeding fertility, viz.

Glouceſter, Somerſet, the weſt and north-weſt parts of Wiltſhire, which parts have been admitted by writers and competent judges, for centuries paſt, to have furniſhed, not only a plentiful ſupply of fattened cattle, ſwine, cheeſe, and butter, for home conſumptions but through the hands of various dealers, jobbers, &c. &c. an aſtoniſhing ſurplus for diſtant parts, markets, and fairs in other counties; namely, London, Hounſlow, Maidenhead, Reading, Swindon, Wincheſter, Baſingſtoke, Rumſey, Portſmouth, Wilton, and Saliſbury, together with many other in either rout thither. Fat bullocks, ſheep, lambs, and hogs; many ſcores of tons weight of various ſorts of cheeſe, and good butter. But of late years the circle of forty miles around Bath, will appear to have depended chiefly upon Devonſhire, and other diſtant counties, for ſupplies of lean ſtock.

Although a few words are ſufficient to make known a too common practice, as the certain cauſe of the too great and unſeaſonable diminution of calves and lambs, whereby the native breeds of ſtock are become nearly extinct; alſo an infringement on the laws, with other cauſes of dearneſs, I muſt requeſt my reader's patience to peruſe a circumſtantial detail of facts, becauſe were I to ſend this book to the preſs, without proofs concerning cattle, ſwine and their productions, as ſold at fairs and markets, not only judges, but perſons ſo ſituated in life as not to be ſo well acquainted with the conſequences, might be diſſatisfied; might condemn my well-meant aſſertions as ill-intended; calculated falſly

to create alarm, or diſturb the public; conveying impoſſibilities. Whereas by ſtating a variety of proofs, if ſeemingly trifling or tedious, the grievances which Engliſhmen have moſt need to repine at, viz. ſcarcity, dearneſs of food, and common neceſſaries, will appear to have ſprung therefrom.

A removal of the abuſes alluded to, will, I conceive, be generally deemed neceſſary, ſuch having been the cauſe of greatly leſſening the income of the revenue, and of drawing —as unawares—incalculable ſums of money out of the pockets of the public. By ſuch removal all may yet be well with Britons, and England be herſelf again.

To ſhew how prodigiouſly changes in appearances of ſtock, on the acres, has affected the London markets, country markets, and fairs, I ſhall ſtate things relating thereto, chiefly as they came within my own knowledge: Prices as paid at divers times and places, in the neighbourhoods of Briſtol, Bridgewater, Glouceſter, Saliſbury, Hereford, and Bath, about the beginning of the thirty-ſeven years laſt paſt; alſo Smithfield prices, and the retail prices in Middleſex, and advances there.

Prices, as paid at Bath forty-ſix years ago, for meat, having the advantage of books to prove the ſame. The low prices which wheat, barley, and malt, yielded; cheeſe and butter, wheat ſtraw and hay, and progreſſive advances.

That there are too many calves and lambs killed for food.

That the monopolizing of farms has produced evils.

How the ſtrong arm of Parliament may moſt ſpeedily remedy thoſe evils, and keep up the beſt poſſible ſupplies for Middleſex.

Whether turnpike roads—the breed and uſes of many horſes—has not proved great national proſperity.

Diſuſe of ox ploughs—and why.

Wherein jobbers have been particularly uſeful, &c. &c.

Theſe are ſubjects I ſhall enlarge upon, not doubting but the ſame will be well received by the public—as by me—it is well meant.

A nearly preciſe ſtatement of the amount of a weekly conſumption of beef, cheeſe, and pork, in his Majeſty's navy, &c. &c. having appeared, I ſhall notice prices I have obtained, that government has paid for ſuch articles for victualling, at divers times during nearly the laſt half century.

Savings alſo, by calculations, which in future may take place, to the revenue, in purchaſing articles of this kind, which calculations may ſerve for the conſideration of other dealers; for the ſame holds good for merchants, &c. &c. who victual ſhipping.

I doubt not to make it appear, that the ſcarcity of cattle, ſwine, &c. at Smithfield; the extraordinary dearneſs of meat, cheeſe, and tallow articles, has not been occaſioned by any cauſe originating in, or nigh to the metropolis; but that ſuch are the offspring of dire abuſes, prac-

tiſed many miles diſtance therefrom; whereby, to a certainty, will be found that the counties of Devon, and Cornwall, weſtward; Worceſter, and Shropſhire, together with great part of Wales, northward, have been ſo drained for ſupplies of ſtock, as to produce too great inconveniencies to the reſpective inhabitants.

I ſhall ſhew that dealers, men who in the cheapeſt of times have been found uſeful, buying and ſelling living ſtock—and who may be deemed jobbers—have ſought cattle for ſeveral years paſt, for want of neighbouring ſtock, in different routs, even where their anceſtors never ſought either lean or fattened bullocks, &c.

It is but reaſonable to imagine, that ſuch endeavours to obtain live ſtock, may ſerve as ſufficient proofs to convince parliament that cattle and ſwine are ſcarce in reality, in that extent of country, where ſuch ought to be found. It may account likewiſe why cheeſe is not abundant. The advanced prices paid laſt year for poor ſtock, will appear beyond example out of reaſon, preſaging dearer prices for meat, if not for tallow candles and ſoap; eſpecially if graziers and butchers find ſuch profits as have been eſteemed but fair.

To eaſe or prevent worſe happening, ſurely is proper, and cannot fail to be pleaſing to Engliſhmen.

Seeing ſuch calamities ſpring up—as it were—hidden from miniſterial view, and out of the way of thoſe perſons, who are inſpectors or regulators of the amazing markets of London, &c.

who may have earneſtly wiſhed to furniſh parliament with the needful information; my endeavour is to unfold a practice, as being the chief—if not ſole—cauſe of ſcarcity, and an infringement on well meant old laws; practiſed with ſeeming impunity, which—in an unfair way—has been the occaſion of raiſing the prices of live ſtock; alſo a dire maxim, which has greatly tended to raiſe the price of meat.

The practice alluded to will appear ſo bad in its tendency, that, unleſs it be prevented, it cannot fail to occaſion a ſtill greater ſcarcity, and more rapidly than in its earlier progreſs—ſuppoſing to accord with laſt year's advances on lean ſtock, enhance prices, and create ſtill heavier complaints.

The moment being precious, I hope perſons in power may deign to think as I think, viz. That to put things upon a better footing cannot be too ſoon managed; and that to prevent the continuance of a practice, which by counteracting, or blaſting—as it were—the works of Nature, the bleſſings and promiſes of ſpring, is but proper, ſeeing ſuch practices, if longer permitted, will be found too dangerous towards compleating the ruin of England.

Dearneſs has occaſioned almoſt inſupportable miſeries and aſſemblages, that have produced great harm, and conſequences affording no good.

I reſt on Hope—the poor man's friend—truſting that the remarks herein contained, will be a faithful guide to whomſoever now, or hereafter,

may have to manage the affairs of the nation, to the owners of landed property, and to the public, at all times, who, by looking into this book, may find the true means how to keep the prices of such neceſſaries properly low—better than of late—to agree with the prices paid for labour to all deſcriptions of thoſe perſons who ſupport themſelves and families by their earnings, and are the props of trade and commerce.

This great work may be done without injury to the fair dealer. Plenty will be found to be the beſt regulator of dealings and prices.

ERRATA.

Page 18, line 6, For roted, read *rotted.*
—— 22 — 2, — drovers, read *droves.*
—— — —26, — effectually, read *even.*
—— 91 —27, — could take place, read could *not* take place.
—— 178 — 7, — raſing, read *raiſing.*
—— 195 —19, — muttoa, read *mutton.*

REMARKS

ON THE

SCARCITY OF LIVE STOCK,

THE

DEARNESS OF PROVISIONS,

AND OTHER NECESSARIES OF LIFE.

IN conſideration of the preſent diſtreſſed ſituation of thoſe perſons dependent on ſmall incomes, or earnings, for the maintenance of themſelves or families, as alſo the miſeries of the poor, and the idea of having it in my power to communicate a matter of real moment, proper to be laid before the public, induced me, as a loyal ſubject and well-wiſher to the revenue, to ſhew my love for my country and fellow ſubjects, in the attempt of writing a narrative concerning the prevailing ſcarcity of cattle and ſwine; of the prices paid for their production, man's common proviſion, alſo for the uſeful articles tallow candles, and ſoap, which Providence hath afforded me an opportunity of ſeeing bought and ſold in divers parts of England, in the courſe of 37 years laſt paſt.

In the early part of my life, I was occaſionally ſent with a man-ſervant to farms, fairs, and markets, chiefly in the two counties of Somerſet and Glouceſter, to purchaſe fattened cattle for my mother's

uſe, an induſtrious widow of reſpectable character, who, for the maintenance of a large family of children, carried on the buſineſs of a butcher in the city of Bath; dealing chiefly with reſpectable opulent farmers and graziers, occupiers of divers ſorts of farms, at perhaps the diſtance of forty miles, more or leſs, and frequently by myſelf, with conſiderable ſums of money, to lay out the ſame in the purchaſing of live fattened cattle, moſtly oxen or ſteers, and wether ſheep, under the direction of certain friends of my mother, who had kindly appointed to meet me for that purpoſe. Taking delight therein, and being bleſt with a retentive memory, I ſoon became acquainted to a great nicety with the value of the different ſorts of fattened cattle, neceſſary for our ſhop, which ſupplied with different kinds of proviſions thoſe moſt honourable and reſpectable cuſtomers who then did my beſt of parents the honour of dealing with her.

Before one year had elapſed, I was ſent with the ſervant to a reſpectable farmer's houſe in Glouceſterſhire, for the purpoſe of examining, and to purchaſe (if approving of them) one hundred fattened clean bred Dorſetſhire wether ſheep, the whole of which we bought at one guinea each ſheep, gueſſing their weight when brought to the ſcale, would be upon the average eighteen pounds per quarter, nine ſtone each ſheep, London weight; obſerving on our return home, that the ſaid wethers were warranted ſound, were excellently well fattened, and would not coſt *in* more than after the rate of threepence halfpenny per pound, or two ſhillings and fourpenee per ſtone London weight, allowing

for ſinking the offal. Thoſe true, clean bred Dorſetſhire wethers died full of fat, and carried weight ſatisfactory.

At that time other butchers, who attended conſtantly at Briſtol weekly live markets, and at fairs, taking advantage of dealing for ready money, bought by *hand* wether ſheep, equally fat and weighty at as low as after the rate of threepence per pound, or two ſhillings per ſtone, London weight; allowing for ſinking the offal; oftentimes conſiderably cheaper. Good ewes well fattened, ſuch dealers bought for ready money by hand, to come into ſhop at little more than half the foregoing price. The graziers of the low parts of Somerſetſhire, around Bridgewater, Taunton, Huntſpill, &c. were in the habit of ſending at that time, hundreds of fattened wethers, chiefly of the Dorſetſhire breed to Smithfield market, taking advantage of Saliſbury and other markets and fairs in that route for ſale; and were ſatisfied if after clearing the expences of the journey, ſuch fattened wethers produced after the rate of threepence three farthings per pound, or half a crown per ſtone, London weight, allowing for ſinking the offal; nay, ſuch graziers or dealers, boaſted of excellent markets, if their prime wether ſheep ſold at Smithfield as high as fourpence per pound, two ſhillings and eightpence per ſtone London weight, allowing for ſinking the offal. Poor ſheep were bought in at prices to anſwer the foregoing.

On a future day of the ſame autumn, being ſent to a reſpectable grazier's farm in the county of

Somerſet, to examine and to purchaſe (if approving of them) eight excellent home bred, or native Somerſetſhire fattened oxen, which were bought at eleven pounds each; reckoning that the four quarters of beef of each of thoſe oxen, when brought to the ſcale, would weigh eleven ſcore and four pounds weight each quarter, which added together, the bulk makes forty-four ſcore and ſixteen pounds weight; eight hundred weight; or one hundred and twelve ſtone London weight, being ſomewhat leſs than threepence per pound; twenty eight ſhillings per hundred weight, or two ſhillings per ſtone London weight, allowing for ſinking the offal. Thoſe truly valuable Sometſetſhire bred oxen were a ſort which always carried a prodigious quantity of meat upon the bone, more than oxen of many other counties (if to appearance of the ſame frame when poor) carried not only an abundant weight over and above the weight required, but alſo upon the average, produced more than one hundred pounds weight of rough tallow, or fourteen ſtone London weight, for the uſe of the chandlers; as alſo remarkable heavy ſtrong hides.

From croſſing the breed with Somerſetſhire cows, and other dire manœuvres made uſe of, I deſpair of ever ſeeing their like again. Such prime oxen as thoſe I have mentioned, were in thoſe days driven in lots or droves, perhaps from a ſcore, to the number of a hundred weekly in autumn, more particularly about Chriſtmas time, through the routes of Saliſbury, Wincheſter, Baſingſtoke, and Hounſlow, to Smithfield, from the rich paſtures in the low parts of Somerſetſhire, whilſt the graziers or deal-

ers, owners thereof, were ſatisfied, if after road expences were cleared, ſuch excellent animals made a return of from twenty-eight ſhillings to thirty, or at fartheſt, thirty-two ſhillings and eight pence per hundred weight, or two ſhillings, and up to two ſhillings and fourpence per ſtone, London weight; allowing for ſinking the offal. If ſuch bullocks were ſold at Saliſbury or other markets or fairs in the route to Smithfield, the buyers experienced nearly the ſame cheapneſs.

Heifers not more than three years old, and cows heavily laden with fat, and full of tallow, were bought at that time chiefly by country butchers, at as low as after the rate of one guinea per hundred weight, whereby houſekeepers, all deſcriptions of labouring perſons, and the poor, were ſupplied with good beef on very moderate terms in town and country. It ſoon became part of my buſineſs to ſeek for and purchaſe fattened ſuckled ſtaged calves, a ſmall but regular ſupply of veal being at that time requiſite for the ſhop. To find ſuch at one time of the year, I rode to dairies, and other large farms, within a circle of ten or twelve miles round Bath, by which means I became acquainted not only with the ſituations but with the produces of moſt of the farms [as then cultured] in the villages and hundreds ſo encircled.

As I grew in years, I delighted in the ſtudy of farming, the nature of different ſorts of cattle and ſtock; alſo the various methods uſed of weaning, rearing, and fattening them.

By attending to the produces chiefly of dairy and ſuckling farms at that early part of my practice, Pro-

vidence preſented ſuch things to my view as greatly ſurprized me; and after contemplating on the probable conſequences thereof, I concluded that a day in all likelihood would arrive, when ſuch things, if made public, might be found uſeful to ſociety. A few years convinced me, that what I had previouſly conſidered wrong proceedings, had turned out *exceeding* hurtful to ſociety; and having the good of my country and the welfare of the community at heart, I held a diſcovery thereof a debt due to the public, which I ought faithfully to diſcharge; and attempted it as I then thought beſt. About twenty-five years ago I offered to explain the nature of the growing evil to a gentleman high in office, and received for anſwer: "Sir, "I always ſubſcribe to good things, but never "meddle." This rebuff vexed me: notwithſtanding I ſtill perſevered in paying attention to the progreſs of the evil practice and infringement alluded to, making frequent offers to explain their cauſes to others, but in vain: I at length determined to publiſh my remarks for the information of thoſe now in power, who perhaps will honour them with their attention, ſeeing how dear the neceſſaries of life are become.

Fat ſuckled ſtaged calves at that time, when the calving ſeaſon was a little advanced, were bought in lots of ſix, four, or one calf, according as a farm produced: the average prices then given for ſuch kind of fattened calves [all by hand] were from twenty-ſeven ſhillings, up to thirty-ſeven ſhillings each, weighing from twenty-eight pounds upward to forty pounds weight per quarter, about from four-

teen ſtone up to twenty ſtone London weight, allowing for ſinking the offal.

Staged ſuckled calves were moſtly ſold at eight, ten, or twelve weeks old, according to their growth, or to ſupplies of milk. There are at preſent many butchers exiſting that recollect purchaſing fattened calves at divers dairies, when the calving ſeaſon commenced, in lots per hand, at from fourteen pounds to ſixteen pounds only per ſcore. Let it be underſtood, although the latter were not ſtaged, yet they were frequently equal in delicacy, with ſuckled ſtaged calves; more certain to be juicy, by receiving their fill of milk from the dam, and would weigh on the average from twenty to thirty pounds per quarter, although taken to market at ſix weeks old at fartheſt.

Country butchers reſiding at ſix, or eight miles diſtance from Bath or Briſtol, made a larger circuit, and picked up ſtage ſuckled calves *the beſt ſorts*, at from twenty ſhillings to one guinea only each calf; which may ſerve to ſhew, lands neareſt to populous places were then of more value than lands at a greater diſtance.

Such were the prices at that time, not varying more than ſixpence or one ſhilling per calf, during the ſpring and ſummer months, *i. e.* from April until November.

After the month of November had commenced, although in the height of Bath ſeaſon, throughout the winter months, the cuſtomary deareſt time of the year, it was conſidered an aſtoniſhing price to pay for a fattened ſuckled ſtage calf, or calves, fifty

ſhillings per calf, varying but few ſhillings, however good and weighty.

Young ſuckling calves were purchaſed by ſucklers at that time from the month of April until September, from three to ſix days old, at as low as from four to five ſhillings each, frequently for leſs money; but from the month of September until the calving ſeaſon following, at from twelve to fourteen ſhillings each ſuckling. Houſe lambs at that period were bought by a ſtanding cuſtom yearly, at as low prices as from half a guinea each, up to thirteen ſhillings per lamb. The latter price was the utmoſt known paid in thoſe days in this part of the kingdom by retailers. The few graſs lambs which were killed at that time were in the ſpring and ſummer months only; ſuch graſs lambs, if weighing on the average from eight up to ten pounds per quarter, ſeldom coſt the butchers, if retailers, more than ſeven ſhillings per lamb, but more frequently bought by hand, equally well fattened and heavy at five ſhillings per lamb, or five pounds per ſcore.

The native breeds of lean and fattened ſtock were the chief produces found at that time in great abundance, moſt fairs and markets being thronged with large or ſmall lots thereof, according to the ſize of the farms around.

Wales ſupplied in an aſtoniſhing degree, Briſtol, Glouceſter, Bath, and many other fairs and markets with lean and fleſhy pigs. One or two fattening pigs were to be found at almoſt every ſmall farm; at larger dairies in greater numbers; and were ſold by a ſtanding cuſtom, almoſt generally by weight, at per ſcore pounds weight, head and feet

included according to prices fixed at Bridgewater, Wells, Briſtol, Glouceſter, or Bath markets.

Sometimes the prices paid for Wiltſhire fattened hogs or pigs, exceeded the former nearly three-pence per ſcore pounds weight, but it was no matter the ſize. If pigs were found fat and ſound, the prices were moderately low, as four ſhillings and ſixpence per ſcore pounds weight. Prime corn fed ſwine for bacon, not more than twelve months old, have frequently, in my hearing, been bargained for at four ſhillings per ſcore pounds weight between the farmer and the hog butcher.

There are perſons ſtill exiſting, who dealt largely in hogs, that recollect, after a good acorn ſeaſon, purchaſing of neighbouring farmers in lots by hand, litters of young ſwine, as porkers for ſcalding, which had been turned out to range the fields, woods, brakes, or coppices, hard by, for out food, with the dam, and thereby got fat from three to ſix months old, which ſlips when killed and brought to the ſcale, did not coſt more than ſeven farthings per pound, including the head and feet.

Fattened ſtock being bought in thus moderately at that period, the nobility, gentry, viſitors, the inhabitants of Bath and its environs, enjoyed the agreeable ſatisfaction of knowing for a certainty of the morning attendance at market, either of the farmer, his wife, daughter, or ſervant, who had trudged thither with the different produces of the neighbouring farms, (as farms were then managed) conſiſting of beſt milk butter, whey butter, cheeſes of various ſorts, vaſt quantities of roaſting pigs,

the choice pieces of a well country fattened bacon pig, or hog, namely, the fore chine, middle chine, tail chine, ſpare-ribs, ſweet bones, with fillets hanging thereto, blade bones, with a portion of meat thereon, griſkins, together with black and white puddings, abundance of lard, chitterlings nicely cleaned, and made up by the hand of a neat dairy maid; variety of poultry well fattened, freſh eggs, ſmall birds, lean poultry for town fattening, fruits, flowers, herbs, honey, and the honey combs, &c. &c. &c. all which, when ſold, produced a ſum of money, which, if but ſmall, ſerved to make up rents, and afforded not only contented, but comfortable maintenances, rearing up moſt numerous families of children, which ſaid rents were generally as well paid to the landlords as at this preſent dear time.

Land owners, who although they may be in the habit of letting out farms at the low rates, as paid either by the anceſtors of the preſent occupiers, or to other perſons (no matter to whom, were all regular farmers only) on the ſame good old moderate terms (which is well known to be the caſe in divers counties) or may be ſomewhat higher let than at thirty-ſix years ago, I venture to affirm, that ſuch land owners have not made the like ſums of money which ſerved at aforetime, with a portion in addition thereto, ſeemingly adequate with their advanced rents, anſwer at the end of ſeveral years laſt paſt to clear off houſe-keeping expenditures. It will be found, on referring to houſe-keeping books, that for ſeveral years paſt, and a long time before the preſent war took place,

numerous genteel families have reſpectively been in the habit of paying double out-goings yearly, to the great diſcomfiture of the poor; ſince, in many inſtances, there has been a real neceſſity for even ſuch families curtailing liberalities.

Such, in reality, has been the caſe. But if, hereafter, it is found poſſible for things to be put on a better footing than they are at preſent, and that landed property will thereby, with certainty, be benefited, rather than leſſened in value, may not benevolence and charity again reſume appearances equal to gifts experienced of old, ſeeing to produce again for futurity, the bleſſings of plenty, and moderate prices, is practicable ſhortly to be brought about?

Beſt milk butter was bought, ſummer mornings, even by ſtrangers and chance cuſtomers, at ſo low a price as ſix-pence per pound; whey butter was bought at four-pence per pound; tubs of excellent Welch butter were frequently ſent to this neighbourhood, to houſekeepers and retailers, at ſo low a price as three-pence per pound:— per hundred, or per ton weight, retailers bought at cheaper rates.

On winter mornings, although in the heighth of Bath ſeaſon, the beſt milk butter ſeldom coſt ſo high a price as ten-pence per pound, or whey butter more than five-pence per pound; either was bought, frequently, nearly as cheap as in the ſummer months, occaſioned by the then prevailing plenty of either ſort. Thus artificers, and the poor, were ſupplied comfortably; who in

common preferred whey butter, expreſſing ſatiſfaction therewith.

Farmers and butter-women, who attended market conſtantly twice or thrice a week, ſupplied inn-holders, ſhopkeepers, retailers, nay houſekeepers, by the year, with beſt milk butter, at ſo low a price as ſeven-pence per pound.

About that time beſt milk butter at the city of Wells, and at places adjacent thereto, was bought conſiderably cheaper. For inſtance, a farmer with whom I was acquainted, (laboured hard, yet was content with cyder or malt liquor) reſiding not more than ten miles therefrom, aſſured me he ſent his butter on a Wedneſday to Wells market, but could get no more than three-pence per pound for it, wherefore it was brought home again, and the Saturday following it was ſent thither again and ſold, with other freſher made, at that price.

That the foregoing circumſtance is a fact, can be proved, the perſon being ſtill in exiſtence.

It muſt be obſerved what rendered it thus cheap, viz. At that time moſt of the farms, ſituated within the circle of from ten to fifteen miles around the cities of Briſtol and Bath, were cultured by regular farmers; who, to make up rents continually as it were, kept thoſe two great markets in a ſtate of plenty, by which means jobbing in any way, but more eſpecially in butter, eggs, or ſmall marketings, was rarely known.

Beſt coward milk cheeſes were brought to market, by ſuch country marketing folks, and

ſold as low as two-pence-halfpenny per pound; half coward milk cheeſe, and ſkim cheeſe, for the greater convenience of working perſons, were ſold by hand at proportionate and more moderate prices.

Cream cheeſes, for which Bath market has long been famed for producing, were bought at eight pence each. In the heighth of the ſeaſon, ſuch perhaps roſe in price to ten-pence each; but by the dozen were bought for leſs money per cheeſe, certain months of the year.

Great quantities of poultry, excellently fattened, were brought by ſuch neighbouring country folks to market, which were not only of larger ſize, but far ſuperior in quality to the poultry which of late years has been retailed out by higlers, who have drained more diſtant villages and markets to ſupply the preſent demand.

Freſh eggs were bought from five to ten for two-pence.

Poultry, being rather out of my way, I ſhall ſay but little thereon, eggs excepted. Let it ſuffice, divers kinds of poultry were formerly brought, exceeding good, to market, and were purchaſed by the viſiting gentry, who preferred marketing for themſelves; alſo by the inhabitants, at very moderate prices.

The practices which, by unſeaſonable diminution, have cauſed a ſcarcity of ſtock of cattle and ſwine, have cauſed likewiſe a neglect of rearing poultry; conſequently a ſcarcity and

dearneſs thereof, as will appear more fully hereafter.

Roaſting pigs were bought at two ſhillings each, half-a-crown being a price rarely known in thoſe days in Somerſetſhire.

Of the before-mentioned choice pieces of pig's meat, of a prime country corn fattened bacon-hog, commonly called broken pieces, the fore-chines, ſpare-ribs, ſweet bones with fillets, were bought at two-pence-halfpenny per pound; thoſe of more ſuperior quality at three-pence per pound. If a farther advance of one farthing per pound took place thereon, it was chiefly at Chriſtmas, when fore-chines, for a few market days only, yielded perhaps four-pence per pound. The reaſon aſſigned for ſuch advance ſeemed fair: fore chines of ſuch pig's meat, being conſidered as proper preſents at that ſeaſon, and frequently ſent to very diſtant parts of the kingdom; as were cream cheeſe for the like purpoſes.

The griſkins, as then cut out, were bought at from ten-pence to one ſhilling each, nearly all meat. The largeſt, however delicate, ſeldom yielded fourteen-pence, weighing from three to four pounds.

Excellent hog's lard was bought at four-pence per pound; by the lump cheaper. The black and white puddings, which were made better and conſiderably larger than what are brought to market at this time; the blade-bones, with a portion of meat thereon, as taken from the ſides

intended for flitches of bacon, the kidneys, midriffs, tails, and ſweetbreads, though apparently trifling articles, ſerved ſingle perſons chiefly, and were a convenient and comfortable part of the food of the day, were bought from one-penny to three-halfpence each, proving ſufficient, with a frugal ſupply of vegetables and bread, for a moderate eater's meal.

The beſt cheeſe, made in Somerſet, Glouceſter, and Wiltſhire, of various kinds, known at London by the names of Glouceſter, double Glouceſter, Wiltſhire, North Wiltſhire, Chedder, &c. &c. was bought at that time, at the retail ſhops, as low as three-pence per pound. The moſt excellent of either ſort coſt no more, in common, than four-pence per pound.

At fairs, and great cheeſe markets, where cheeſe was bought up by the hundred weight, eighteen ſhillings up to twenty-five ſhillings were prices then common for the beſt coward firſt making; and if purchaſed by the ton at a lower rate. Contractors, who ſupplied government and other great demands, cheeſe-factors, great ſhopkeepers, &c. got credit therewith, and amaſſed handſome fortunes, even at conſiderable lower prices.

This ſtatement of the prices of cheeſe, the navy books, hoſpitals, and books of pariſh houſes, if examined, may prove more ſatisfactory. There are many perſons yet living, who recollect purchaſing good coward milk cheeſe at the low price of fourteen ſhillings per hundred weight, at Landſdown, Weyhill, Reading, and other fairs.

There are alſo perſons now living, who recollect the prices which Lammas and Poland wheats, barley, and malt, bore at that time.

From authorities which are not to be doubted, nor controverted, I have taken the following information, viz. A few years prior to the period of thirty-ſix years ago, beſt wheats yielded from three ſhillings and ſix-pence to four ſhillings per buſhel, as from fourteen to ſixteen ſhillings per four buſhel ſack, large meaſure.

For many years ſince town artificers, and the poor were in the habit of receiving twelve pounds of town-made bread—commonly called houſhold bread—for one ſhilling.

Country bread, made more brown, perhaps more nouriſhing, of conſiderable more weight, was bought for the ſame ſum of money.

Barleys were bought at as low as two ſhillings per buſhel, and beſt made malt was bought at half-a-crown per buſhel, ſame large meaſure.

Narrow wheeled waggon loads of wheat ſtraw, from farms ſituated near to roads for a team and waggon paſſable, were delivered in to inn-holders, ſtable-keepers, and ſuch like cuſtomers, at from eighteen ſhillings to one guinea per load. The latter price, when occaſioned by a failing crop, or other diſtreſſing circumſtances, was conſidered alarmingly dear; ſuch waggon loads of wheat ſtraw being nevertheleſs, at that time, equally large in bulk, and weighed nearly as much as thoſe commonly ſeen delivered in now, at the preſent very high prices, chiefly by weight.

Hay was bought at low prices, as from thirty ſhillings per ton, riſing in price according to the goodneſs thereof, or as the harveſt turned out; until of late years three pounds per ton was a price ſeldom known to be given for hay, although in the neighbourhood of the cities of Briſtol and Bath.

Speculating dealers, even farmers, would frequently in thoſe days over ſtand the markets for hay, becauſe Providence quickly changing the face of the earth, the appearance of things, and the fields changed. The ſame hay for which fifty ſhillings per ton had been offered, reduced in value at market, and was delivered in afterwards at leſs than two-thirds of ſuch bidden prices. In the courſe of my experience I always found ſpeculators in hay alternately found gain and loſs chiefly owing to the works of Providence; one inſtance may ſuffice.

About thirty years ago a perſon in the poſſeſſion of many acres of excellent paſture land, near to the hay and river Wye, in the county of Hereford, had the growth of many years hay by him, much of the ſaid paſture land, (which in his way he cultured) producing according to the authorities and opinions of competent judges, and my own belief, nearly two tons per acre on the average lippant and dry ſeaſons.

At that time I was informed hay ſold to the innholders in the city of Hereford, at about fifty ſhillings per ton weight. Many perſons made application to him, and would willingly have purchaſed nearly all he was poſſeſſed of, at fair and time prices, but he aſked, or demanded five pounds per ton weight. So regardleſs was he, and cruel, as not to

hearken to the neceſſitous offers of his neighbours, or to the voice of reaſon. As a puniſhment to him, the face of things changed for the better, and great part of the aſtoniſhing number, nine ſcore and one ſtacks, or mows of hay, many of which were eſtimated to contain ten tons weight, roted upon the face of the earth like dung heaps.

This book being intendedly written to work reformations, I mention this extraordinary circumſtance as a leſſon for covetous perſons, hoping it may have a good effect, and that from ſuch principles the Lord will be pleaſed to deliver Britons.

I came by a knowledge and ſight thereof as follows: at that period of time there was a great call for Welch mutton at Bath. The ſort of Welch ſheep which our ſhop had been accuſtomed to ſhew, were frequently picked up at Briſtol live markets. A horned ſheep of a remarkable ſmall ſize, of which the hind quarters and the necks of mutton ſold well, were greatly eſteemed on account of their delicacy, and the tender quality thereof; but the ſhoulders and breaſts turned to bad account, yielding very little money. The offal of that ſort of Welch ſheep was likewiſe of very trifling value, their wool to appearance, and its feel being hairy and coarſe, which made the ſkins to be conſidered of little value, inaſmuch to be diſpoſed of to fellmongers at the rate of two Welch ſkins for one home bred ſheep ſkin. This occaſioned my making enquiry for a better ſort of ſmall, or Welch ſheep, which might be likely to turn out more profitable; ſuch were ſoon found.

A gentleman of moſt reſpected memory reſided at that time at Bath, his ſervant was in the habit of frequenting the ſhop for meat, who, on hearing me propoſe to my mother the neceſſity of finding a better ſort of ſmall ſheep, without heſitation juſtly pointed out the Rylands as beſt, and gave a written direction to a farmer at Foxley in Herefordſhire, of whom might be got great numbers thereof. Accordingly I was ſent thither, where I bought a lot of compleat Rylands wether ſheep, at as low a rate as three-pence halfpenny per pound, allowing for ſinking the offal. Now the offal of thoſe Rylands ſheep three years old, proved better, and of much more value than the offal of any Welch ſheep before known in Somerſetſhire. Whereupon at their arrival, thoſe good and pretty moulded animals were not only the admiration, but became the talk of almoſt every grazier, butcher, and epicure in mutton. Reſpecting the ſorts and age for beſt mutton neceſſary to be choſen for perſons who find themſelves in the decline of life, I ſhall ſay a few words hereafter. I have obſerved it was cuſtomary to give two Welch ſheep ſkins as one home bred, or Dorſet, or Wiltſhire bred ſheep ſkin. The price for which the latter ſorts were ſold at that time to the fellmongers was fifteen pence each ſkin, the ſkins of the Rylands muſt have gone at ſeven pence halfpenny each of courſe: whereas the honeſt man who managed the buſineſs of farming at Foxley with great credit, of whom I purchaſed theſe Ryland ſheep (after I had agreed for them) requeſted to know at what price the ſkins would be likely to be ſold. Replying according to the manner already

ſtated, viz. two for one; he, knowing the goodneſs and value of the wool of that ſort of ſheep, deſired that I carefully got the ſkins dried, which was done accordingly; and they were ſent to him by way of Briſtol, in a trading veſſel; for every ſkin he allowed my parent conſiderably more than double the price which they otherwiſe muſt have gone for, although in a dried ſtate.

This ſort of mutton at that time at Hereford, Roſs, &c. yielded per joint, or quarter, not more than three-pence per pound, weighing from eight to ten, or eleven pounds per quarter; twelve pounds per quarter the right ſort ſeldom amounting to, although the handſomeſt formed, and moſt excellent eating mutton known. Beef and other meats were ſold equally cheap: at thoſe places tallow candles and ſoap, bore nearly the ſame prices as in Somerſetſhire, little more than ſixpence per pound in retail ſhops.

Before I return to the eaſtern ſide of the Severn, it may be neceſſary that I inform my reader of the wonderful ſupplies which this country received, particularly bullocks and ſwine from that part of Glouceſterſhire, from Monmouth, Glamorgan, Brecknock, Carmarthenſhires, and other counties lying on the oppoſite ſide of its banks from England.

Perſons in the vicinity, alſo the inhabitants of Briſtol, other country dealers, who during the thirty-ſix years paſt, have been in the habit of attending Thomas Street live market, will no doubt admit that the numbers of poor oxen, ſteers, runts, heifers and pigs brought thither by uſeful Welch dealers, or drovers who may be ſtiled jobbers, were until of late years truly abundant and amazing, notwith-

ſtanding native breeds of either Somerſet, Glouceſter, and Wiltſhire ſtock were found many, weekly, but at times inſufficient to eat and pay for the wonderful burthens of ſpring and after graſs produced in the fertile paſtures extending from the Severn to Cirenceſter, Cricklade, Calne, Devizes, Weſtbury, to Bruton, and down to Bridgewater.

That ſuch numbers ſhould have been brought there, need not be wondered at, ſince it is well known Welchmen after ſtanding Briſtol market on Thurſdays, travelled with the unſold poor cattle and ſwine to fairs and markets, ſouthward, eaſtward, and northward, having at that time markets for ſale almoſt every week day.

Will not the ſame account for the vaſt ſupplies received at Smithfield heretofore from thoſe paſtures and farms, fattened?

I have known ſuch drovers hawk about their ſtock to ſmall town markets (of which to the injury of the community divers have been cried off, or put down) almoſt through the county of Glouceſter, to Oxfordſhire, Berkſhire, and farther towards the north. Others travelled through the upper part of Somerſetſhire, through Wiltſhire by Saliſbury, Andover, Wincheſter, Baſingſtoke, to Guildford, and onwards down into the rich vales of Suſſex; whilſt others have taken the more ſouthward route from Briſtol by Bath, Penſford, Wells, Caſtlecary, Wincanton, ſometimes touching Glaſtonbury, Somerton, and acroſs towards Weymouth.

Much fattened goods likewiſe were formerly brought over to Briſtol, and were found of vaſt ſervice at that excellent live market, by being the

means of regulating and keeping prices moderate. The drovers of poor oxen, ſteers, runts; ſpayed, martin, and other heifers, that were uſed to be brought acroſs the Severn from theſe counties and from lower down in Wales, by perſons who went down thither from the rich paſture farms in the eaſternmoſt counties of England, were heretofore aſtoniſhing.

Eaſtern dealers who fetched up yearly, perhaps thouſands of ſuch cattle from Wales, uſed to turn moſt of them at late years into the ſtrong paſtures on and near the eaſtern and ſouth eaſtern ſea coaſt of England, where without one blade of hay, ſuch black beaſts got wonderfully fat, and came in ſeaſonably to Smithfield, in ſpring months, at or about the time when ſtall fed beaſts from moſt grazing counties of England were turned into money. But the practices and abuſes which will appear, have for ſo many years prevailed in Somerſet, Glouceſter, weſt and north weſt Wiltſhire, having ſpread into Monmouthſhire, and onwards far into Wales, have almoſt deprived England of the uſual ſupplies therefrom, found ſo truly neceſſary in theſe parts of old.

By ſuch miſhap, cheapneſs (which aforetime was every where found in thoſe counties of Wales) is done away, and proviſions experienced the following turn in prices there.

Quarters of mutton in Monmouthſhire, leſs than twenty years ago, of ten or twelve pounds weight, nay, more weighty, were bought at eighteen-pence, or at fartheſt, up to two ſhillings each quarter, for ſeveral years paſt, have been raiſing there; five-pence per pound has been paid, and now the current price for mutton is higher.

Beef, veal, poultry, butter, cheeſe, as proviſions for mankind, were there formerly all alike plenty, and cheap, but at this juncture are alike ſcarce and dear, in as much as the poor people in thoſe counties have been heard to complain, viz. "'Tis hard to have little bread for our money, but more, it is harder not to know the taſte of meat for a fortnight."

Taking a view of things farther back, as fifty-eight years ago, to ſhew how remarkable cheap, meats were in Somerſetſhire, old ſhop books which I have kept by me, being regularly poſted, makes it appear that the nobility, gentry, reſorting viſitors to Bath, with numerous or ſmall retinues, were ſupplied with the moſt prime, of picked pieces of ox, ſteer, or heifer beef, wether mutton, the moſt preferred joints, or quarters of pork, at 3d per pound, veal was then ſold by a ſtanding cuſtom by hand, *i. e.* without weighing either in ſides, quarters, or the ſingle joint.

It is probable that the vaſt advances in the prices paid for this article of proviſions, in but few years, may ſeem incredible; but facts are ſtubborn things, I have the advantage of books to prove, if required, the prices as then paid for it, by vaſt numbers of the quality of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, who purchaſed for themſelves, or as purchaſed for their reſpective uſes.

FOR VEAL AS SOLD BY HAND,

According with the weights of ſtaged ſuckled calves as before mentioned.

	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
A leg of veal weighing from 14 lb. to 20 lb.	4	6 to	6	0
A loin of ditto, from 10 lb. to 14 lb.	3	0 to	4	0
A neck of ditto, from 9 lb. to 12 lb. -	2	6 to	3	6
A breaſt of ditto, from 8 lb. to 10 lb. -	2	6 to	3	0

A ſhoulder of veal, however good or weighty, ſeldom coſt more money than half a crown.

At Briſtol and its environs, the ſame kind of articles were bought equally cheap, although cut up in different forms. But to return to a nearer period of time, the moderation which the inhabitants of Bath and its environs enjoyed purchaſing the article veal, I conceive will ſatisfactorily appear by one fact which occurred within the ſpace of thirty years laſt paſt, viz.

A tradeſman yet in exiſtence, a man of good repute, being at the town of Marſhfield in Glouceſterſhire upon the market day, purchaſed of a butcher, three quarters of veal, delicately white, of proper age, and well fattened, for three ſhillings and ſixpence per quarter, the whole ſum amounting to half a guinea only; two were hind quarters and weighed twenty-two pounds each, the other was a fore quarter which weighed twenty three pounds; thus the bulk made ſixty-ſeven pounds weight, for ten ſhillings and ſix-pence.

In Wiltſhire, at Bradford, Melkſham, and Trowbridge; alſo in Somerſetſhire, at Froome, Shepton Mallett, and divers other towns, nay, in moſt villages of either county, certain months of the year, perſons bought equally good veal and cheap, in quarters, or by the joint, as beſt ſuited their pockets. In either county before mentioned of England, or Wales, if calves were killed under ſix weeks old, the carcaſes of ſuch at market, frequently got condemned as carrion, unwholeſome for food, and burnt.

About this period of time which came within my own knowledge, the country people were ſeemingly

the moſt happy of any of his Majeſty's ſubjects, and of the hardieſt conſtitutions; their children were healthy, and fed with wholeſome food at every meal time.

Complaints amongſt the laborious, even thoſe of loweſt eſtate, or the old, or infirm poor, at this period were ſeldom heard of in town or country; ſcarcity or dearneſs were not known, hours were conveniently ſpared to relieve the minds of the robuſt in performances, manly recreations, and exerciſes, encouraged for good reaſons, by even thoſe whom adminiſtered juſtice, living amongſt ſuch working perſons of huſbandry or other arts, revered, and as it were ſecure from theft or harms.

Inhabitants of London and its environs, who kept houſe there thirty years ago will no doubt allow, although they could not purchaſe meats in thoſe days equally cheap, as did thoſe country perſons diſtant from them, perhaps an hundred miles or more, there was comfort and great conſolation for Londoners by their various earnings, of from twelve ſhillings upwards, to one guinea per week wages, more or leſs; alſo for ſhop-keepers in the habit of turning much money, affording good and conſiderable profits, earning wages likewiſe; whereas many of theſe country perſons in ſweet content, reared up families by hard labour at tenpence per day wages only: however, be it remembered, the Londoners were plentifully ſupplied at that period with beſt proviſions and moderately cheap conſidering road expences, enjoying not only comfortable livelihoods but amaſſing fortunes.

Many old graziers, in my early days of buſineſs, aſſured me, that, owing to diſtance of ſituation from grazing counties, Smithfield had been looked upon as the top market for prices; trade, &c. at London anſwering it; perhaps one halfpenny, or a penny per pound, which was conceived reaſonable by them, and by me.

Quarters of houſe lamb, of ſuperlative quality, were bought at Bath, thirty years ago only, from three ſhillings and ſix-pence, to four ſhillings and ſix-pence each. If at Chriſtmas a quarter, more excellent than other, coſt five ſhillings, it was deemed very dear, even for a fore-quarter.

Quarters of graſs lamb ſeldom coſt more than from half-a-crown to three ſhillings per quarter, perhaps ten or more pounds weight.

Beſt cuts of bacon were bought at ſix-pence per pound; inferior pieces at prices conſiderably lower; odd pieces of right good bacon, were frequently bought in lots at two-pence halfpenny, or three-pence per pound; fore-ſpurs for leſs money.

Perſons are ſtill living, who recollect their neighbours bringing up large families of children genteelly, by keeping boarding tables; that have boaſted of purchaſing, in the country market of Bath, a leg of veal for two ſhillings; and at Eaſter, or Whitſuntide, a quarter of graſs lamb—either weighing twelve pounds—for the the like ſmall ſum.

Advancing twenty or more miles from Bath, to Wells, Glaſtonbury, Somerton, Crewkerne, Illcheſter, and nearer, as Shepton Mallet and Frome; alſo, at other large towns and villages in the county of Somerſet, perſons yet living recollect purchaſing lots of meat, of the following deſcriptions, viz. ſurloins, rumps, atchbones, rounds, flanks, fore-ribs, and briſkets, of good beef; quarters or joints of veal; quarters or joints of pork; quarters or joints of wether, or Chilver mutton, excellent in their ſeveral kinds, as low as two-pence-halfpenny per pound.—Three-pence per pound, leſs than twenty years ago, in the deareſt months of the year, was a top price.

In many of the towns and villages in the counties of Glouceſter, and Wilts, perſons recollect having purchaſed lots of proviſions, of the ſame deſcription, at equally low prices as their neghbours of Somerſetſhire: nay, there are to be found perſons who bought as low as half-a-crown per ſcore pounds weight; lots rather inferior in pieces and quality to the before-mentioned, yet of good ſorts of meat. But the inhabitants of all thoſe towns and villages, for ſeveral years paſt, have been in the diſtreſſing habit of paying double, in many inſtances treble prices, for ſuch neceſſary articles of life as will hereafter appear. What makes it worſe and more lamentable is, that each ſort has been found greatly inferior in quality.

On the evenings of market days, it became part of my buſineſs to attend at a ſtall in the country market, with the remains which were left

after ſerving ſhop cuſtomers, which conſiſted of what is eſteemed good, and commonly called family pieces of meat, viz. middle and chuck ribs, tops of ribs, thick and thin flank, clods, or ſhoulder-pieces, ſtickin-pieces, legs, and ſhins of beef, &c. legs, ſhoulders, and breaſts of wether mutton; ſhoulders of veal; likewiſe the ſmall offals (of conſequence,) viz. bullocks ſkirts, or midrifs, kidneys, hearts, cheeks, &c. which, if thought trifling articles, ſupplied numerous families comfortably.

By attending the ſhambles ſtall, I had an opportunity of ſeeing genteel reſidents, and boarding houſe-keepers, purchaſe of country butchers, beſt pieces of ox, ſteer, heifer, or cow beef, with joints of wether, or Chilver mutton, and pork, at as low as two-pence-halfpenny, and up to three-pence per pound, in lots of perhaps ſixty, and up to ten or twelve ſcore pounds weight, according to the demand of the family.

At that plentiful time, boarding tables were ſumptuouſly ſpread with moſt excellent viands in the earlieſt ſeaſon. The boarder in health finding what might almoſt be conſidered luxuries; whilſt the invalid was inticed to partake, hearing daily at table, the pleaſing and comfortable ſtory of excellence and cheapneſs.

Viſitors, ſhop cuſtomers, paid advanced prices, as three-pence-halfpenny, and on particular occaſions one farthing more per pound.

Small marketings continued at nearly the before-mentioned low prices.

The family pieces of meat entruſted to my care for ſale, in the country market, were chiefly purchaſed by maſter tradeſmen, having perhaps large families of children, keeping, moreover, one, two, or more apprentices; by journeymen tradeſmen; by farmers; by working huſbandmen; other working men and women; by town and country labourers, and the poor, at the following cheap rates, viz.

A lot of one, two, or more ſuch pieces of beef, one, or more ſuch like joints of mutton, I have ſold as low as two-pence per pound. If perchance a ſtickin, or throat-piece of beef, had hung unſold a few days, of twelve pounds weight nearly, a third part fat, the poor frequently got ſuch a piece of prime ox, ſteer, or heifer beef, thoroughly ſweet, for one ſhilling.

Shoulders of veal, fat and white; if ſuch had hung unſold, perhaps not cheapened, I have ſeen ſold at other ſhops, and at ſtalls in the country market; nay I have ſold ſuch, weighing eighteen pounds, thoroughly ſweet, at from twenty-pence to half-a-crown each.

A poor perſon got a ſhoulder of capital wether mutton if dried—as preferred by epicures—yet ſweet, at the low price of two-pence-halfpenny per pound; breaſts of fat mutton, if ſix pounds weight, for one ſhilling, even when freſh.

Thoſe comforts were experienced whilſt town and country butchers attended ſtrictly to the maxim of buying fattened cattle alive BY HAND.

The nobility and gentry, who, at that time, were in the habit of reſorting to Bath, the ſpring and autumn ſeaſons, were very numerous. They came thither, not only for the ſalutary effects of the Bath waters, or to partake of its amuſements, but for the ſake of cheap living, and enjoying what they then conſidered a treat, viz. to eat Bath mutton: which, indeed, at that time, was of ſuperior quality to almoſt all other kinds, known either to the butchers or cuſtomers. Sorts were from Wilts, Somerſet, Dorſet breeds, fattened on Landſdown, or in the paſtures of neighbouring farms, Keynſham Hams, the North Marſh, and even to Bridgewater, together with Welch mountaineers.

Much of thoſe good ſorts of mutton was brought to market ſo good, as to be juſtly admired for its rich and tender qualities, although not all Landſdown mutton: ſuch being frequently ſent as preſents to the moſt diſtant counties of this kingdom.

I have killed capital Wiltſhire wethers, there fattened. Experienced in their worth, I regret their falling off.

I have killed Mendip wethers, excellent; but the introduction of Ryland's, as before mentioned, did ſomething extraordinary; the goodneſs of their meat gaining a preference.

It may appear extraordinary, but it is true, by croſſing of the native neighbouring breeds of ſheep, croſſing of Ryland's, a novel puzzle prevails at Bath, viz. It is difficult for a tolerable

judge of mutton, as daily expoſed for ſale, to pick a joint thereof that will not offend the ſtomach of invalids, eſpecially thoſe ſubject to weak digeſtion. Were I to ſay its ill effects have not in many inſtances been fatal, I firmly believe would be to depart from truth.

The rage of late has been to produce moſt fat mutton on the leaſt bone, forced on the public for good, whereas ſuch, without exception, turns out to be very bad fat mutton; a tough groſs food for human beings.

Boarding ſchools were ſupplied with mutton, beef, and certain joints of veal, as low as three-pence per pound, yearly.

Country boarding ſchools at leſs money; hence ſcholars were boarded on moderate terms; whilſt traders of almoſt every deſcription flouriſhed.

About the year 1760, when our preſent Sovereign began his reign over a then plentifully ſupplied happy people, the ſhew, the word of the day, in town and country, was unfeigned loyalty. Failures among trading people were ſeldom heard of, becauſe houſekeeping was cheap. Savings were poſſible; whereby money was with chearfulneſs paid, not only for the neceſſaries of ſchooling, and clothing in a homely way, but were ſpared, with conveniency, for articles of dreſs, ſcorning to be in debt for whatever were the prevailing faſhions to appear in.

Handſome ſums of money were paid to firſt rate tradeſmen, with children when bound apprentices; parents finding cloathing, pocket money, waſhing, &c. &c. during the term. It

was alſo found convenient to ſpare conſiderable ſums of money to ſons and daughters, to ſet up buſineſs; with the hope of ſeeing their beloved children flouriſh in trade, as had been their own former happy lot.

Not only handicrafts and town poor, but country labouring perſons, and country poor, even paſt labour, on Saturday night frequently got conveyed home, a wallet well filled with good remains of marketings, viz. ox cheeks, legs, or ſhins; midriffs, or ſkirts, or kidneys of beef; hearts, heels, &c. &c. Alſo breaſts of mutton, ſheeps heads, ſtale loaves of bread, cheeſe, &c. &c. ſufficient proviſions for the week enſuing, for half-a-crown, being perhaps all the money that could be ſpared, for food, out of their weeks wages, at ten-pence or one ſhilling per day. Yet ſuch people found means thereby to bring up large families of children, from ſix to ten or twelve, in number, without parochial aſſiſtance. Surely ſuch living was perfectly conformable, and but accorded with the cuſtoms of their forefathers—not eating too much animal food.—But ſince the outcry of ſcarcity and dearneſs has been prevalent, both have erroneouſly been attributed to the eating of too much meat.

In the days of plenty, inſatiable, hard-hearted, ſordid perſons alone, were thoſe who begrudged the labourious part of their fellow creatures to partake of ſuch comforts; but, alas, the day has arrived, almoſt empty bellies—want of animal food—has been experienced even in England.

In all climates, ſtates, or counties, cuſtoms vary, yet are regarded reſpecting food, by rich and poor. In the eaſt rice, in the weſt turtle, pepper-pot, yams; in parts of Europe, frogs, ſallad, &c. But in England beef, mutton and bacon is required, with cheeſe and butter, either having been handed down as proper food for Engliſhmen, if uſed with diſcretion.

At country club meetings, politics, or contentions, of this or that, him or them having cauſed ſcarcity or dearneſs were not heard; good reaſon why, ſcarcity, or dearneſs having not appeared.

Such meetings conſiſting of almoſt all deſcriptions of working perſons, when met they went cheerfully to church to hear Divine Service, then to a dinner, after which loyal ſongs, as For Folded Flocks, and Fruitful Plains; Hail Britiſh Iſle, and God Save the King, were heard reſound.

So lately as the year 1765, hard labouring colliers, men and women of Somerſetſhire and Glouceſterſhire, travelled to divers neighbouring towns with drifts of horſes, as four, ten perhaps, more or leſs in number, which were laden with coals, and brought up by ſuch induſtrious means families of perhaps ſix, ten, more or leſs children without parochial aſſiſtance. This account may not aſtoniſh when it is underſtood as fact, that it was common to ſee ſuch colliers lade or fill a two buſhel coal ſack with articles of proviſions of the before mentioned deſcriptions, of beef, mutton, large half ſtript beef bones, ſtale loaves of bread, and pieces of cheeſe. The whole of which did not coſt them more than three ſhillings; but were purchaſed frequently for leſs

money. Colliers in rather higher ſtation were in the habit of buying lots of good beef, with joints of mutton, at as low as from ſeven farthings, up to twopence halfpenny per pound. Their families at home were in the higheſt health, robuſt, and to appearance happy.

Such colliers bought bran, nay fine gurgins of wheat, horſe beans, oats, malt grains at a very cheap rate for horſe food, all ſorts of grain being at that time in ſuch plenty as to anſwer it; likewiſe bought hay nearly as before ſtated; for the beſt of hay, eſpecially in villages near their homes, ſeldom coſt more than ſixteen or eighteen pence per hundred weight, few purchaſing hay in greater quantities.

By means of enough of good food, with little care, colliers drifts of horſes, vaſt numbers of which were driven to Briſtol, Bath, Bradford, and to many other places, whereby the inhabitants experienced great comforts, were ſeen in high condition: one inſtance may not be amiſs to inſert of the value of animals ſo driven about. Three or four years prior to the year 1770, a nobleman being at the Hot Wells near Briſtol, purchaſed a mare of a collier at the then eſteemed high price of twenty guineas, which for a mare in pack ſaddle was conſidered wonderful, inaſmuch as it produced converſation for dwellers in Kingſwood for a conſiderable length of time, pleaſant enough.

This mare was ſent into Yorkſhire for breeding of ſtock, being of good frame.

Many colliers rented ſmall farms, and produced at markets much good proviſions contributing towards moderation.

Tailow candles and ſoap, if bought by the dozen, a cuſtomary allowance was made on the moderate price of about ſixpence per pound, which continued nearly the ſame time as whilſt proviſions, the productions of animals kept moderate, ſeldom raiſing an halfpenny per pound, except when the home produce of melted tallow became nearly out, rough tallow ſcarce at markets, or tax required.

Rough tallow was bought within my time of dealing at twopence farthing per pound, by town and country chandlers.

In the cities of London and Weſtminſter, their environs, within the ſpace of thirty-ſix years paſt, nobility, gentry, merchants, or houſekeepers with large or ſmall families, were well ſupplied by eminent butchers, with moſt excellent kind of proviſions, prime pieces of beef and mutton at four-pence and up to four-pence halfpenny per pound yearly, or as chance cuſtomers, daily.

Many great families got beef, mutton, and veal at the latter price as three ſhillings per ſtone London weights.

Veal at the London markets was at moderate prices, if bought alone it was frequently lower than five-pence per pound, even on days of ſeeming ſcarcity of this article, more than ſix-pence per pound was ſeldom paid.

This circumſtance I witneſſed thirty years ago at St. James's market, where numbers of the nobility were ſupplied; likewiſe at the Borough market, where cuſtomers chiefly in trading ways, were equally well ſupplied. Houſe lamb ſeldom coſt more than five ſhillings per quarter, being at that time an article

not to be found in ſeveral of the markets of the metropolis, which remark may ſerve to ſhew that the working people in London were content with more proper food, whilſt to be bought within the limits of reaſon.

It is to be underſtood, that at Chriſtmas time, for time out of mind, quarters of houſe lamb have yielded high prices for Chriſtmas preſents, ſent to different parts of the kingdom. However few weeks produced then a return to moderation for the beſt. The butchers of Middleſex who attended Smithfield in thoſe days to purchaſe living fattened cattle were in the habit of buying for certainty great bargains, eſpecially thoſe who dealt for ready money, all by hand.

At London, dealing by weight was at carcaſe markets or ſhops only, retailers who bought live goods ſcorned the pernicious idea of buying ox, ſheep, lamb, or calf by weight. Retail cutting butchers at that time, who had not conveniencies for the proceſs attending buying cattle alive, were in the habit of buying ſides of veal, at leſs than two ſhillings per ſtone; lots of beef, and carcaſes of mutton proportionably cheap; riſking but little money, yet found good and but fair profits, ſeeing ſuch perſons were at Leadenhall perhaps by two o'clock in the morning, to furniſh themſelves with ſupplies neceſſary for their cuſtomers.

At Smithfield ſhort markets ſeldom prevailed until conſiderably later in the year than Lady-day, ſuch continuing not more than a few weeks, becauſe plenty of cattle abounded throughout the country, and graſs beef before October was found there and ripe.

Overflowing markets at Smithfield were very common prior to the year 1780, inaſmuch that the ſmall

articles, chiefly of bullocks and ſheep ſupplied week days many thouſands of perſons comfortably on terms exceeding cheap, which I ſhall hereafter explain.

Prior to the year 1770, alſo about that time I knew dealers who were in the habit of jobbing fat oxen; alſo farmers, who at Bath fair 14th February, joined lots of beaſts, and ſent them to Smithfield; the returns producing leſs money than were given by the jobber, or than bidden to ſuch farmers by the neighbouring butchers for the ſaid beaſts in Bath ſtreet the fair day.

The ſame was common to hear of at fairs, or markets more weſtward.

At the London markets, or ſhops, ſuch prices for the moſt prime proviſions were ſurely comfortably low, muſt be conſidered very reaſonable, allowing for the great loſſes often ſuſtained by dealers whoſe cattle frequently drop with fatigue upon the roads in the different journeys (conſidering likewiſe the vaſt expences incurred by induſtrious honeſt meaning men who may be called jobbers) but who by great fatigue have been known to rear up and maintain large families by attending fairs and markets, &c. &c. at vaſt diſtances, to purchaſe and ſend living fattened cattle as a ſupply for the wonderful markets of Smithfield, where otherwiſe too often ſhort markets would have been certain.

Upon jobbing I mean to ſay a few words by and by. In the courſe of twenty-five years laſt paſt, divers extraordinary occurrences called me to and occaſioned my reſiding for ſeveral ſucceeding years, four, five, or ſix months ſucceſſively, in, and near the cities of London and Weſtminſter, during which

time I had a good opportunity, of which I availed myſelf, and as often as poſſible, made it convenient, and attended Smithfield live markets, likewiſe the carcaſe, and the retailing markets, noticing ſhops in the different ſtreets, taking great delight in the buſineſs, as dealing wholeſale, or retail, I made obſervations, which will be of great uſe to me in the forming of that part of this book, intended to ſhew that the cauſe which has affected all the London markets, by occaſioning ſcarcity and dearneſs, originated not in or near the metropolis.

I frequently entered into converſation at nearly all parts of London, with experienced trading perſons, their topics turned as frequently upon the aſtoniſhing advances on the prices of different articles of proviſions, alſo the neceſſary articles tallow candles and ſoap, as taking place progreſſively every year, but no perſon could tell me the cauſe thereof; ſometimes their topics turned upon the manœuvres made uſe of on the grain wheat.

Many reſpectable butchers whom I hope are yet in exiſtence at various markets, and ſtreet ſhops of London, aſſured me that the prices which I have before ſtated nobility, gentry, merchants, and other reſidents paid yearly for meats were juſt, for it came within their recollection of having ſo ſold, I have no doubt but books can prove it.

Trading perſons, captains of ſhips, of large and ſmall craft, which lay below bridge, maſters or captains of colliers, &c. aſſured me that it came within their ſeveral recollections of having bought within the ſpace of twenty-five years laſt paſt only, lots of nearly the ſame ſorts of family pieces of meat, of

good ox beef, wether or chilver mutton, ſuch I have deſcribed were entruſted to my care, for ſale at the country market of Bath, cheaper than I could have ſuppoſed London markets would permit of, even as low as from twopence farthing, up to three-pence per pound, or eighteen-pence to two ſhillings per ſtone, London weights; in the Borough market, and at divers other markets and ſhops of the metropolis likewiſe.

Sellers and buyers have aſſured me of having ſold and bought ſhoulders, or breaſts of mutton as low as four-pence per pound. Academy, hoſpital, pariſh, and other ſuch like account books belonging to ſuch places in Middleſex, or the metropolis, upon ſlight inveſtigation, will, perhaps more ſatisfactorily prove, that ſuch places have ſeverally been ſupplied with nearly the ſame ſorts of proviſions at as low as eighteen-pence per ſtone weight.

From good authorities I have been repeatedly aſſured, that good cheeſe was bought at retail ſhops of London, for as low as four-pence per pound; freſh butter at eight to ten-pence per pound, ſalt butter ſix-pence per pound; tallow candles and ſoap on the average of the year, nearly alike, cheap as in the country, coſting per dozen, little more than after the rate of ſix-pence per pound, but however cheap ſuch articles may have been either bought or ſold in London, it is my engagement to ſtick chiefly to my own knowledge of things, and to advance plain facts, keeping within the bounds of the real prices paid at that plentiful and cheap time, rather above than elſe, intending in like manner to keep under known high prices, as paid in 1795 and 1796 rather than exaggerate an atom, having no deſire to aggravate.

I have obſerved, that the firſt part of my riding buſineſs for buying living fattened cattle, was to attend farms, fairs, and markets in the circle of forty miles round Bath.

At that bleſſed time when contentment ſat upon the artificer's and peaſant's brow; as I travelled to and fro, it was common to fall in with farmers or farmers ſervants, driving native breeds of weaned calves or yearlings, two year old heifers, ſteers, or young beaſts intended for cows or oxen, ſmall lots of ſheep, wethers, yews, couples or lambs, lean hogs, ſows with litters of pigs, a few cheeſes, &c. &c. the produce chiefly of farms of ſmall extent; likewiſe of thoſe obſcurely ſituated, ſeemingly hurrying to divers fairs, or markets, which every where abounded with plenty; moreover, upon the back of a breeding plow mare (being all of that ſort of animal which many farmers were poſſeſſed ſeverally of, uſing at that time, chiefly ox plows) a ſack of wheat or other grain; part, or perhaps the whole of the overplus of what was thereon raiſed, and neceſſary for the family uſe, the reward of induſtry; ſmall farms being as it were of neceſſity cultured for ſuch a produce, which came to market without compulſory means, other than the want of money, by being pitched at market, needed not to be ſold by ſample. Thus abundance prevailed, and it was rare if at cattle fairs fattened wethers and lean wethers were not expoſed for ſale, that would not produce either immediately, or in few months, mutton full four years old; occaſionally Bath had to boaſt of mutton ſix years old; the loſs of old wether mutton is truly lamentable, ſince for certain, it not only

preſerved health, but, (in great meaſure) prolonged the lives of thoſe who had made too free with their conſtitutions in their juvenile days, who were careful either to keep in their parks ſheep full aged, or to procure ſuch mutton.

Moſt of the pariſhes or villages in Glouceſterſhire, or Somerſetſhire, at that time ſhewed divers ſmall lots, or bargains: as ſmall farms of perhaps forty pounds per annum, and up to perhaps one hundred pounds per annum, more or leſs; ſuch ſmall bargains in different hands, cultivated in various ways, produced exactly (whilſt regular farmers held them) the ſorts of ſtock I have mentioned, as common to fall in with in lanes or high roads, which afforded comfortable maintenances for ſuch farming perſons families, whether large or ſmall, either one or other of whom conſtantly were found at neighbouring markets, with articles of proviſions, &c. &c. but when ſuch bargains or ſmall farms, became to be caught up (a circumſtance that has for about thirty years paſt been too prevalent) as four, five or ſix in number, by one monopolizer of farms (ſuch as I am about to hold out to public view) it not only ſerved to almoſt depopulate ſuch villages, but in an imperceptible manner, to the inexperienced part of the public, for deſtroying unſeaſonably young cattle, and likewiſe to create neglect of breeding and rearing of ſtock; alſo of cheeſe making, and ſowing; knocking up a part of the then buſineſs of the day, from whence great benefits had been formerly experienced by the community at large.

Being of an inquiſitive turn of mind, where there were found bad high roads, and worſe bye roads to

farm houſes, I requeſted information how the produces thereof (cheeſe and grain in particular) had been turned into money; a carriage way thither, being, ſeemigly impaſſable, I found that for fifty years preceding, as at that time farmers had great advantages, markets being abundant here or there, met their dealers almoſt every day in the week, good ſhamble and market-croſs aſſemblages being numerous, were well attended, where marketings were abundant, viz.

At Bradford and Phillips Norton, Mondays; Marſhfield, Tueſdays; Briſtol, Bath, Wedneſdays; Briſtol live market, Thurſdays; Shepton Mallet, Fridays; for Saturdays, farmers and dealers had great choice of markets for ſale of articles, alſo to buy or talk things over.

Animals not ſold at one place, were perhaps ſold next day at another, but when ſold, were generally delivered immediately; whereas cheeſe, or grain, ſold or unſold, was frequently lodged in lofts or proper places kept for the purpoſe, that either might be expoſed for ſale next market day, or to remain therein until it was convenient, as agreed for by cheeſe dealers, bakers, or millers, to fetch it; beſides the foregoing, there were markets at Keynſham, Pensford, Sodbury, and others in a more diſtant circle at ſmall places, whereby whilſt the country was full of ſtock, alſo of cheeſe and grain, farmers made it out well enough adequate for happineſs, dealing for ſeed and all manner of farming productions, as it were one amongſt another, venturing not to monopolize, job, foreſtall, or ſuch like practices, but trying to ſell, in

order to return to homes, with ſuch returns of caſh or Bank of England paper, which the good dame took care of for rent, &c. &c. ſafely depending on the home bank. But ſince the commencement of the laſt thirty-ſix years, ſuch ſmall farms have been monopolized (not altogether conſolidated) and wrongly cultured, or managed for public welfare, as will hereafter appear.

Year after year, ſince that period, there has not been ſtock, or grain reared, or raiſed as in former time, ſufficient to keep up ſuch uſeful markets; therefore many of them are, as it were, blotted out of the page of buſineſs, to the great injury of the ſtate, of numerous land owners, and of the community.

Such markets having been cried off, or down, I conceive might be cried on again.

Dealers who attend fairs and markets, but more particularly prying farmers, are the firſt perſons likely to diſcover a growing ſcarcity of cattle, or grain.

Farmers manœuvring accordingly, occaſioned appearances in their favour, as all men, perhaps, would do, finding a chance for it; therefore, it will appear fair to blame thoſe only, whoſe practices produced a cauſe which firſt permitted of ſuch chances. My engagement is to develope that cauſe.

Cattle, if plenty, would be ſeen on the face of the earth, but grain, as wheat particularly, I am ſorry to ſay can be hid, with more certainty of keeping than other grain. Thus fictitious accounts of ſcarcity thereof may be given out—ſuch has too often been the caſe—whilſt af-

frighted conſumers ſhamefully oppreſſed paid for all; very few perſons but felt its effects, in 1795 and 1796, in a manner, one would hope never to be experienced again, in ſuch a country as England.

Government have paid at different times, for victualling his Majeſty's navy, &c. &c. with beef, pork, and cheeſe, prices which I have gained from authority I had no reaſon to doubt. Merchants, victualling ſhipping, no matter of what burthen, who have been in the habit of paying much the ſame prices, for nearly the like articles, may find remarks of this nature intereſting.

About thirty-ſix years ago, two reſpectable dealers in cattle, reſiding in Wiltſhire, had the contract for ſupplying his Majeſty's victualling office at Portſmouth, with oxen, and pigs, for that part of the navy which were victualled there. With one of the before mentioned dealers it was my lot often to travel, or to meet at fairs and markets, where I have frequently obſerved him purchaſe from twenty to fifty bullocks, or more, according as the fair or market ſupplied.

By frequent converſation with that worthy man, I had opportunities of knowing, and did learn, the prices for which he, with his equally reſpected brother, had at various times ſupplied the Portſmouth victualling office with beef and pork.

It was but a few years prior to that period, the price paid to them per contract for beef, was eighteen ſhillings per hundred weight.

Pork as low as thirty-three ſhillings per hundred weight, without head, feet, or flecks. But

at that period an advance had taken place; government paid one guinea per hundred weight, for beef; pork ſtill continuing low as before-mentioned.

A gentleman whoſe late deceaſe I greatly regret, a kinſman of the before-mentioned brothers, was engaged in government contracts, as partner with them. He travelling much to Welch fairs, alſo to markets and fairs in the counties of Glouceſter, Wilts, and Somerſet, I had the good fortune of getting acquainted with him, and was by him particularly noticed.

In the courſe of ten years, which brings forward the beginning of twenty-ſix years laſt paſt, or thereabout, beef was farther advanced: government paid, in that gentleman's name, twenty-eight ſhillings per hundred weight. Pork ſtill continued at nearly the prices before-mentioned. Many thouſands of oxen, &c. many hogs, went through the hands of theſe reſpected characters in the courſe of years, wherein they with great credit ſupplied government.

Books, perhaps, might be found, to prove the facts I have ſtated on this head.

Government has paid for cheeſe per the ton, as low as one guinea per hundred weight; books might alſo be found to prove that government was ſupplied at conſiderable leſs money within thirty-ſix years paſt.

To the latter gentleman I was much indebted for unſolicited inſtruction in my youth; which, being fatherleſs, I ſtood in need of at fairs and markets, where chance threw me in his way.

He friendly and in a fatherly manner adviſed me of my duty towards that parent I was endeavouring to ſerve; being then buying cattle for the uſe of her ſhop; aſſuring me, by honeſt argument, it would with certainty turn to my own advantage. He had likewiſe the goodneſs to point out to me the neceſſity of perſeverance, to bring the carcaſes of every animal, which I purchaſed living, to the ſcale—previous to cutting up—by which means I ſhould attain, almoſt to a certainty, what the quarters of an ox, ſheep, or calf, would weigh at firſt ſight. Moreover, carefully to avoid purchaſing by weight.

By perſevering ſtrictly, as adviſed, I had the ſatisfaction of finding myſelf, as it were, compleat in this agreeable ſtudy, eſpecially with the native breeds of cattle which it was ſafe depending on. It was known I was in the habit of gueſſing what the weight would turn out to be, of the carcaſe of any animal that fell in my way, whether ox, cow, ſteer, heifer, ſheep, lamb, or calf, to the nicety of a very few pounds weight.

I have mentioned the foregoing circumſtance as a leſſon; which, if attended to, will not only prove uſeful, but valuable to youth, particularly to young butchers; and, in the end, infinitely benefit the community.

From about thirty to twenty-five years ago, was the time that many opulent farmers, &c. began firſt to diſcern a ſcarcity; whereby dearneſs of cattle and proviſions daily gained ground, in their neighbourhoods. Of this they took advantage, and, more than had been the caſe or

cuſtom formerly, every where poſſible monopolized farms, even at great diſtances from their homes, on that particular account, through their being able to foreſee what was likely to be the caſe in future.

Since that time cattle, ſwine and cheeſe, in reality, has every year been more and more diminiſhing, in number and quantity, at all parts of the country, at all fairs and markets—taking a circle of forty miles round Briſtol and Bath—every where advancing in prices. Certain it is that through this means of foreſight, of cattle and ſwine becoming ſcarce and dear, grain—wheat in particular—has felt a ſevere neglect and diminution in growth, and thereby has become more than uſually ſcarce, conſequently has advanced even to the late, and ever to be deplored, enormous prices.

The practice of monopolizing farms, and progreſſive dearneſs, ſoon ſpread into diſtant counties: becauſe it then became the buſineſs of monopolizers in general, and farmers in particular, to attend at all fairs and corn markets poſſible. The father at one market, whilſt a ſon, ſons, or ſervants, attended other markets; giving out every where the welcome news of advance, not only upon corn, as ſold at ſuch a place a few days before, by which means it, contagion like, ſpread, and became ſpeedily known through the whole kingdom.

Can farmers, in this caſe, be the perſons alone to be blamed, ſeeing agricultural reports now took place ſanctioning farmers accounts? Thus as

corn advanced in price, there appeared leſs neceſſity for culturing to the utmoſt advantage every acre. Becauſe by cultivating but a ſmall part of ſuch monopolized farm, or farms, the farmer found leſs out-goings, and conſiderable greater incomes of gold or bank-paper, by the rapid advances on grain—wheat in particular—which every year, ſince that period, has been wavering; but of late, by appearing more and more ſcarce, ſold higher and higher, till at length the prices of 1795, more than trebled the former prices. Productions yielding to occupiers of farms—of every ſort—ſome double, others treble prices; whereby the bank of England, and country bankers notes, got out in number, and to an amount, in value, incredible.

Again, farmers found great advantage by keeping at diſtant farms a leſs number of ſervants, which circumſtance conſidered, accounts for the depopulation that has been experienced in many villages of England, and the dire convulſions reſpecting banks, which have been felt in many counties.

I have obſerved, that early in my life I diſcovered a practice as hurtful to ſociety, and an infringement on well intended old laws, which, before the commencement of the year 1780, had afforded vaſt ſcope for monopolizing farms, foreſtalling, jobbing, &c. &c. and the multitude of evils attendant.

Whilſt the twenty years, which had previouſly elapſed, were paſſing away, in the courſe of my

buſineſs I applied my thoughts to, and cloſely attended to the progreſs of the ſaid practice, and infringement; every fair or market convincing me, more or leſs, daily of the ſad effects to be dreaded, as likely in a ſhort ſpace of time to happen, and which unhappily has been verified.

By unſeaſonable premature ſlaughtering, the effect of ſuch practice I found at that time a wonderful diminution of ſtock, and that the ſame was gaining ground to an aſtoniſhing and truly alarming degree daily, not only in the before mentioned three counties, but was ſpread in different other counties of England; furthermore, that its effects had ſpread to the counties acroſs the Severn, from whence previouſly wonderful ſupplies had been experienced by the inhabitants on this ſide thereof.

A dire circumſtance and calamity was this to Britons, becauſe the ſad effects thereof now begun to ſhew a ſpreading abroad into almoſt all quarters.

Firſt I ſhall notice Devonſhire weſtward, which I diſcovered by the following circumſtance:

Recurring to about the year 1770, a period of time when Exeter butchers, or other butchers farther weſtward, were rarely ſeen at any of the fairs in the lowermoſt rich grazing parts of Somerſetſhire; but ſuch dealers ſince that time I frequently found farther upwards than Bridgewater, ſeeking for fattened cattle, a circumſtance I conceive ſufficient to convince the reader ſuch Devonſhire butchers felt a draining off and loſs of ſtock at their home neighbouring farms, fairs, &c. which was viſible in

a ſurpriſing degree in that county, even at that time.

I knew an Exeter butcher who joined as partner with a reſpectable farmer and grazier near Bridgewater, in paſture lands, whereon were grazed few oxen, but chiefly heifers and ſheep. Unexpected ſcarcity (except to experienced obſervers,) having for a length of time prevailed in Devonſhire, was his motive for ſuch an engagement, to have cattle for his ſhop certain months when ſuch could not readily as at aforetime be got near his home. This ſtruck me as wonderful, becauſe previous thereto, meat had been more plentiful, and cheaper at Exeter than at Bath, whilſt it ſerved to convince me my conjectures were well founded reſpecting the practice I have yet to diſcloſe.

The ſame is to be obſerved reſpecting Glouceſterſhire, where before this time had commenced, a Birmingham butcher, or a Worceſter butcher, were ſeldom known ſeeking for fattened cattle.

Reſpecting weſtern and northern dealers I ſhall ſay more in proper places.

About the year 1780, graziers at farms, at fairs, or markets, ſold their beſt fattened wether ſheep in weight to be conſidered like thoſe firſt deſcribed at the advanced prices of twenty-ſeven ſhillings, and to thirty ſhillings per ſheep, being from four-pence halfpenny per pound, or three ſhillings per ſtone, London weight, to five pence per pound, or three ſhillings and four-pence per ſtone, London weight, allowing for ſinking the offal, of which the head forms a part, which ſold at from two to three-pence each. I reſerve a few words on this particular article for

the ſupplement to this book. Clean Dorſets were becoming even at this time rare, for too frequently were found a ſort of mixed breeds of ſheep, which occaſioned great complaints, not only by invalids, but by epicures in mutton, ſhewing the effect of dire croſſings of native breeds of ſheep, were it not as tho' the Almighty knew not beſt how to ſuit ſhape, &c. to climate? but it was done for gold, by many that have left behind them the droſs, and food dangerous to ſwallow; ſad proof of inexperience. The meat of ſuch mixed breeds of ſheep was ſpeedily found differing in quality, having loſt former delicacies, and become unpleaſant in reality to eat and digeſt; it has been ſaid difficult to deſcribe the true Dorſet breed of ſheep. The preſſure of the times demand of me to ſtick to the ſubjects ſcarcity and dearneſs, otherwiſe I could deſcribe them, having been in the habit of ſeeking, buying, killing, and cutting up ſuch in their true ſtate.

During the twenty previous years, Glouceſters, Somerſets, and Devonſhire bred oxen, and heifers made up nearly equal parts of the produces of poor beaſts yearly at Lanſdown fair; but at this time the true Somerſetſhire breed of bullocks, likewiſe thoſe known as true Glouceſters were by ſad manuœvring, become nearly extinct.

This circumſtance I deeply regret, it is truly deplorable, ſince the loſs ſuſtained by the revenue, but more eſpecially the community, cannot with preciſion be figured, or hardly conneeived. Honeſt perſons experienced in the old weſtern breeds of cattle, may regret to the end of their lives, that loſs, becauſe of the difficulty of ſuch to reſtore.

A remedy in this caſe amongſt breeders would turn to good account, produce advantages ſuperior to croſſings, would merit public thanks, and cannot be too ſoon ſought.

Thoſe ſorts of beaſts when fattened frequently agreeably ſurprized the buyer at the ſcale, by weighing perhaps half a hundred pounds weight, or more, over and above what the ſellers were aware of, produced better hides, carried to almoſt a certainty from twelve to twenty ſtone of rough tallow each, (London weight) for chandlers uſes, yet got up in the uſual time allotted for grazing—See General View of Agriculture in Somerſet, page 14. They are moſtly, &c. &c. &c.

The ſort of fattened beaſts at this time produced at fairs and markets in Somerſetſhire, were chiefly of the Devonſhire breed, vaſt numbers of that breed, having found their way into Glouceſterſhire, and into Wiltſhire, which to reflect on is diſtreſſing, becauſe the Devonſhire breed of oxen, if well fattened, notwithſtanding whatever may have been advanced by advocates for that breed of cattle, when brought to the ſcale, from a certain thinneſs in nature, ſeldom ſurprize the buyer, other than by too frequently falling ſhort (if bought by hand) of the weight expected, producing thin light hides, ſlabs, and conſiderably leſs rough tallow on the average than true Somerſets, true Glouceſters, the true Wiltſhires, a weighty ſort made up in hides, whatever they were deficient in tallow. This ſhews the goodneſs of Providence, by ſuiting beaſts to divers counties. Wiltſhire is colder than the vales of Glouceſter,

or Somerſetſhire, ſtrong hides ſeem adapted accordingly.

Eight hundred weight of beef was advanced up to the value, to coſt in at fairs or markets, in either county before mentioned, and on either ſide of the Severn fourteen pounds, being three-pence three farthings per pound, or half a crown per ſtone, London weight, allowing for ſinking the offal.

Fat ſuckled ſtaged calves, weight and goodneſs like thoſe firſt deſcribed, in ſummer months, as till September, bore an advanced price, coſting buyers from thirty-five up to forty-five ſhillings per calf. The winter prices were advanced, as from forty-five ſhillings up to three guineas per calf.

At this period, the chances for purchaſing lots of living fattened cattle, which town or other well ſkilled butchers of the aforeſaid three counties, had been accuſtomed to buy to great advantage, of farmers or graziers, unaccuſtomed to ſell cattle by weight, and which permitted of great bargains for conſumers, and likewiſe compenſated for incidental loſſes of butchers, were almoſt done away by the dire miſhap of other butchers ſettling in this neighbourhood, who being incompetent judges, bought by weight cattle of any ſort, whether good or indifferent, of the neighbouring farmers or graziers, who, in conſequence parted with their good old dealers, for others who would give ſo much per pound. This was a circumſtance which diſtreſſed good old dealers, and was very deplorable, ſeeing it will be very difficult to be got the better of; for it has cauſed a change in the ſyſtem of dealing, ſet farmers agog for ſuckling inſtead of rearing or making of cheeſe,

whereby unſeaſonable diminution of ſtock has followed, by the article veal having riſen to prices unreaſonable.

In the neighbouring and moſt other markets in the kingdom, no wonder breeders kept not calves for old ſtock, prices paid for young calves, and which veal will hereafter appear to have advanced to, anſwered to them better. A circumſtance, if duly conſidered, I conceive muſt convey to the mind that the public have ſuſtained a very weighty injury thereby; for in the year 1780, veal bought with beef, mutton, and pork, if agreed for yearly by weight, coſt reſident or viſiting gentry and other cuſtomers nearly alike dear, as from four-pence halfpenny to four-pence three farthings per pound. I declare that mode of dealing for live cattle has contributed very much towards dearneſs of meat.

A chance cuſtomer who bought veal alone paid for either leg, loin, neck, or breaſt, full ſix-pence per pound on the average of the year. Shoulders bore an advance, yielding four-pence halfpenny cheap months, other months ſix-pence per pound.

This was a rapid advance upon the public in a ſmall ſpace of time.

Young calves for ſuckling, if four days old only, were advanced to more than double the former prices on the average of the year. Houſe lambs were advanced to eighteen ſhillings each, taking the whole number ſucklers might bring forward yearly. Thoſe butchers (dealers by weight, who had got in to deal for beſt of other goods, making thereby better ſhew, got encouraged by beſt cuſtomers) wanted lambs, of

courſe, gave any prices aſked to get them from old dealers, conſumers paying for that miſhap.

More graſs lambs by ſeveral thouſands were at this time killed in the nieghbourhoods of Briſtol and Bath in one ſummer than was at aforetime uſual.

Fat hogs were advanced in price to five ſhillings per ſcore pounds weight on the average of the year.

By this time I was become acquainted with a much larger part of Wiltſhire, where farms which were conſidered beſt dairies, ſimilar to farms of Glouceſter and Somerſetſhire, noted at aforetime for producing good ſupplies of beſt cheeſe and butter, vaſt numbers of lean and fattened hogs; alſo much poultry, were now alike ill cultured by perſons whoſe buſineſs would not permit of one ſingle cheeſe, or rarely one pound of freſh butter weekly, or one fattened hog to be produced for neighbouring market uſes throughout the year.

Furthermore, where the feathered race were nearly become extinct, farms, which for many preceding years I had known to be in the habit of ſupplying for the uſe of the community, from four tons weight to ſix tons weight of beſt cheeſe yearly, vaſt quantities of whey butter; and from ten to forty fattened and lean hogs, beſides great quantities of poultry, where contractors, dealers in cheeſe who (were engaged to ſupply London, Briſtol, or other great cheeſe dealers in divers towns and counties, factors, wholeſale and retail dealers) for many years preceding had been accuſtomed to find a whole year's making of that article, which when bought

was uſually delivered to them at Reading, Marlborough, Andover, Magdalen Hill, Giles Hill, Weybill, Glouceſter, or other great cheeſe fairs, or markets for the purpoſe of meeting, and to ſupply chance, London, or other dealers. Such contractors when approaching to ſuch farms, expecting to find cuſtomary, and almoſt never failing ſupplies, whole year makings of cheeſe, were diſappointed, nay, to their great aſtoniſhment, found NONE.

Other dairy men uſed to drive their teams to ſuch fairs or markets with waggon loads of cheeſe to ſell it to factors, or dealers, whom were uſeful, if to be deemed jobbers, for ſuch came thither from different towns far eaſtward, and from the metropolis to buy.

Great dairy men, and other perſons keeping waggons, uſed to take their neighbour's cheeſe from ſmall farms, where team or waggon was not to be found. Thus the properties of little farmers got up and turned into money, before turnpike roads were found, as at this juncture. Such fairs being chiefly at good ſeaſons, returns for the bulk of cheeſe, made in the year, even at ſmall farms, were found before November commenced. Dairy men are ſtill exiſting who ſold their own and other peoples cheeſe at thoſe fairs for leſs money than twenty ſhillings per hundred weight, and made good returns by lading back with hops, &c. &c.

At divers fairs and markets in either before mentioned weſt counties, but particularly at Bridgewater and Wells in Somerſetſhire. Both but few years before this time being much noted for immenſe quantities of cheeſe conſtantly ſtowed upon market days in

each market place for ſale; a prodigious and lamentable falling off was viſible.

The ſame was viſible at the fairs and markets of Glouceſterſhire, where in former time cheeſe had been produced in very large quantities for ſale.

Cheeſe dealers viſited other fairs, unaccuſtomed to produce cheeſe, and were frequently known to make enquiries for it; ranſacking and hunting the whole of either county, at farms even where it was certain cheeſe could not be advantageouſly made.

This account of cheeſe is extremely painful to me to pen down, knowing how much the working claſs of the community depended thereon, and how truly valuable an article of proviſion it is.

Prior to this period of time, if by a dry ſummer, or any other unprofitable circumſtance, cheeſe roſe in price, a lippant ſeaſon reſtored, in a few months only, to the community, that article at low and moderate prices. But the time, appeared to me, had arrived for continual ſcarcity and dearneſs thereof. I conceive it will appear ſo to others, eſpecially, and provided the means which will hereafter be pointed out, are ſlighted. Hitherto it has happened verifying my then thoughts and foreſight; for, ſince that time, there has been a fluctuating movement upwards; and at length an aſtoniſhing advance. But at Landſdown fair, ſorts of cheeſe, ſuch as formerly ſold at leſs than one guinea per hundred weight, in

the year 1780 were advanced, and yielded twenty-eight ſhillings per hundred weight.

The following ſtatement of prices paid for cheeſe, per the hundred weight, and for fattened pigs, per the ſcore pounds weight, head, feet, and flecks included, may not be amiſs; which I obtained from a perſon of reſpectability, who dealt many years in thoſe articles. It will nearly accord with my ſtatement thereof, gained rather in a curſory manner; thoſe articles being leſs in my view, when at fairs or markets, than cattle.

Cheeſe, at per hundred weight.

			s.			
In the year	1772	—	31	per hundred weight.		
	1773	—	32	do.		
	1774	—	30	do.	down to	25s.
	1775	—	29	do.	do.	26s.
	1776	—	28	do.		
	1777	—	33	do.		
	1778	—	36	do.		
	1779	—	32	do.	do.	30s.
	1780	—	28	do.		
	1781					
	1782	—	32	do.	do.	29s.
	1783	—	33	do.		
	1784	—	32	do.		
	1785	—	34	do.		
	1786	—	36	do.		

		s.	
1787	—	30	per hundred weight.
1788	—	40	do. old 28s.
1789	—	40	do.

And ſince higher.

This ſheweth, cheeſe yielded, in 1789, forty ſhillings per hundred weight.

Fattened hogs, at per ſcore pounds weight.

			s.	d.	
In the year	1772	—	7	3	per ſcore pounds.
	1773	—	7	0	do.
	1774	—	5	10	do.
	1775	—	6	6	do.
	1776	—	5	10	do.
	1777	—	6	0	do.
	1778	—	6	0	do.
	1779	—	6	0	do.
	1780	—	5	3	do.
	1781	—	5	0	do.
	1783	—	6	0	do.
	1784	—	6	6	do.
	1785	—	7	0	do.
	1786	—	6	4	do.
	1787	—	6	3	do.
	1788	—	7	0	do.

Since higher.

And for the laſt time pigs ſold, in 1788, as low as ſeven ſhillings per ſcore pounds.

The above ſtatement is, in my opinion, alone ſufficient to convince the public, that the preſent

war has not been the ſource of ſcarcity, or dearneſs of proviſions.

At the period of 1780 wheat had riſen, yielding from five to ſix ſhillings per buſhel.

Barleys yielded about four ſhillings; malt four ſhillings and ſix-pence per buſhel, at moſt grain markets, either in bulk, or by ſample.

Still town artificers, town and country labouring men, got family pieces of meat, at from three-pence to three-pence-halfpenny per pound, and on the average of the year, eight pounds of bread for one ſhilling. Bacon from five to ſeven, pickled pork, four, five, and to ſix-pence, per pound.

Covetous people thought theſe prices moderate, but to my feelings it was a diſtreſſing advance upon the labouring poor.

Even that advance occaſioned the gentry, trades people, and boarding houſekeepers, to come to market grumbling; finding they were paying, for proviſions, at leaſt five ſhillings in a guinea, more than formerly, although for articles become then much inferior in quality.

At the London markets, ſixteen years ago only, there was a great degree of moderation in the prices of proviſions, compared with the prices paid in 1795 and 1796; for at almoſt every market in London, good lots of meat were then to be bought at as low as three-pence-halfpenny per pound, particularly in chance way, either by houſekeepers, artificers, or poorer people.

I have obſerved, that by ſmall articles, as heads, hearts, midriffs, kidneys, tripes, heels, &c.

many thouſands of perſons, in the metropolis, were ſupplied, who purchaſed them otherways than by weight; which articles I ſhall enumerate hereafter, to prove their importance to ſmall families. Inferior claſſes of that multitude, who, on account of their number, I conceive firſt to be conſidered.

The quartern loaf had ſeldom been known to coſt eight-pence, but had more frequently been bought as low as ſix-pence. Houſekeepers of that day, if they will give themſelves the trouble to recollect, or look over their books of houſekeeping expences, I believe will find what I have advanced, reſpecting chance dealing at the London markets, or ſhops for freſh meats, are facts.

Bacon, pickled pork, tallow candles, and ſoap, were then retailed at nearly the ſame moderate prices I have ſtated to have been retailed at in the country, or with ſmall addition.

Thoſe who ſupplied even the royal table, at that time, did it not only with greater conveniency, but at greater profits, than of late.—The ſame holds good reſpecting noblemen's families.

The next part of this narrative, however painful the taſk, is to ſhew, as nearly as poſſible—but not to aggravate—dearneſs.

In the month of January, 1795, it was found that mutton, fattened wethers as they walked, were worth ſix-pence per pound. Prime fattened wether ſheep, of any county breed, or ſuch as are now called Ryland's, in the weſtern counties of England,

have ſold ſince that month, at Briſtol live market, at as high as ſeven-pence per pound, to ſink the offal, being four ſhillings and eight-pence per ſtone, London weight.

Eight hundred pounds weight of beef, either ox, heifer, or old cow beef, at fairs or markets, in Glouceſter, Somerſet, or Wiltſhire, coſt the buyer, whether butcher or jobber, at leaſt ſixteen guineas, two guineas per hundred weight, or three ſhillings per ſtone, London weight, allowing for ſinking the offal. But after that month, as without diſcretion, beef roſe at fairs and markets rapidly in price indeed. For the ſake of brevity, I ſhall notice the value of beef at two fairs only, namely, Briſtol and Tewkſbury, alſo Briſtol live markets.

At Briſtol fair, which took place Monday the ſecond of March, 1795, on account of the Sabbath, prime oxen or heifers, expoſed for ſale, yielded, according to the eſtimation of allowed competent judges, the high rates, as from forty-five to fifty ſhillings per hundred weight. At Tewkſbury fair, in the ſame month, for want of a proper ſhew of oxen, fattened heifers, and old cows, expoſed for beef, yielded a higher price, as two guineas and a half per hundred weight; being ſomewhat above five-pence per pound, or three ſhillings and four-pence per ſtone, London weight, to ſink offal.

At the latter place fattened heifers, and fattened old cows, were bought thus dear, by butchers from Birmingham, Worceſter, and from other parts of Worceſterſhire; alſo from Oxford-

ſhire, and counties more diſtant. This ſhewed a want of fattened cattle more northward, and that ſuch butchers depended not on hilly, or more barren counties, for fat bullocks, but rode downwards to parts, where their appearance raiſed the prices, which to reflect on is diſtreſſing.

It has been known that for ſeveral years prior to 1795, ſuch butchers ſought low down in Glouceſterſhire and Wiltſhire for fattened beaſts, catching up ſuch at any prices. Becauſe, even in Worceſterſhire, for their home conſumption, a ſufficient number of cattle was not to be found, which may account for ſhort markets at Smithfield, and the markets and fairs on the road thither.

A vaſt tract of the fertile lands upwards, which had been accuſtomed to ſupply ſuch butchers; alſo the low lands weſtward, being become in a manner barren of fat cattle. As for the few—compared with former times—expoſed at theſe two particular fairs for ſale, to fetch ſuch prices was alarming; but how will this account appear, compared with prices paid in March, 1796, one year's advance only.

Preceding the year 1795, year after year, for want of the uſual proper ſupplies of beef, mutton, and pork, at market, veal, little better than carrion, ſold, to a diſtreſſed multitude, at from four-pence-halfpenny up to ſix-pence per pound.

In April and May, 1795, retail cutting butchers bought beſt ſtaged ſuckled calves, at Briſtol and at Bath, at about five-pence-halfpenny per

pound; prices continuing nearly thereat throughout the ſummer.

In November, 1795, ſuch ſtaged calves were ſold, to retailers, at nine-pence per pound; nay, there were inſtances dearer, of courſe the fleſh thereof, was vended accordingly to conſumers.

In May, 1795, inferior, but tolerable good, calves were bought, by retailers, at from four-pence-halfpenny to five-pence per pound; whereas beſt calves, and ſuch as were but tolerable, in May, 1796, coſt retailers from ſix to ſeven-pence per pound. Very poor carcaſes of veal were ſold, taking the average of the ſummer months of 1795, at four-pence-halfpenny per pound; ſuch, in 1796, till October, coſt retailers ſix-pence per pound.

Theſe circumſtances conſidered, I conceive, muſt ſtrike the feeling mind. To me the thought is terrible; becauſe poor veal is bad food, a joint thereof producing ſcarcely any victuals when dreſſed. Moreover, ſuch poor calves as theſe were bought by weight, and came to near forty ſhillings, but formerly were bought by hand at about half a guinea each. Thus artificers, and the poor are worked up to, and obliged to pay enormous prices, even for—as it were—a parcel of marrowleſs bones.

Alas! alas! perſons may juſtly complain, who recollect buying whole quarters of well fed capital veal, twenty-two or twenty-three pounds weight, for three ſhillings and ſix-pence per quarter; other good meat proportionably cheap. I conceive that ſuch perſons cannot fail to heave

heart rending ſighs, when they reflect how their offſpring are to get through life. Moreover, if they complain, ſeeing the dearneſs is real, ſuch perſons may not be other than dutiful loyal ſubjects.

If it demands not the interference of a Britiſh Parliament, to get at the real cauſe why any part of the community, but more eſpecially artificers, and the poor, who are the greater part of his Majeſty's ſubjects, are brought into the diſtreſſing habit of paying twelve ſhillings—nay there has been many inſtances of much more money being paid—for an article of proviſion, which, leſs time than thirty years ago, either themſelves or their anceſtors bought, or could buy, at from three ſhillings and ſix-pence, to four, or, at fartheſt, five ſhillings. I am at a loſs to know what, in future, Parliament may find worth while to attend to.

Young calves of not more than four days old, have been worked up to and ſold at the abominable price of one guinea and a half each, which price, if one ſuckler—after foreſtalling for the firſt chance—has refuſed to give, then another ſuckler, a by-ſtander—whether or not the ſame ſort of occupier of farms, ſeized the chance willingly, and why?

Permit me reader to claim your attention to the following remark, viz.—For many years paſt, as at this juncture, the chief number of ſucklers of ſtaged calves in Glouceſterſhire, on whom, and where the greateſt dependance has been for veal, to ſupply Bath and Briſtol markets, are

BUTCHERS. The ill conſequences whereof ſurpaſſeth all ills reſpecting ſcarcity of living ſtock, and of courſe dearneſs of proviſions that I have known in life; it is worthy of obſervation; for ills will appear to link together, although wrought widely, to enhance prices of food.

Carcaſes of veal were ſold in Bath market, by ſuckling butchers ſince November, 1795, to retail cutting butchers at the out of all reaſon prices, as from ten-pence up to one ſhilling per pound; nay, to ſuch a pitch is this practice arrived, were ſuckling butchers to demand mornings of the fair dealer one ſhilling and ſix-pence per pound, the retailers muſt comply, or by loſs of cuſtomers for want of the commodity, ſhut up ſhop. Were it required, viz. Cannot fair traders find ſupplies in the country ſufficient, ſo as not to be under the neceſſity of buying in this manner? I would reply No, it is impoſſible, which without a doubt is known already to many experienced dealers; hereafter the ſame may appear clearly to all my readers, and the public.

A quarter of veal was ſold by a ſuckling butcher, in Bath ſhambles on an open market day at one ſhilling per pound, quarters of houſe lamb at one guinea each. Can want of bullocks, want of cheeſe and ſheep be longer wondered at? Oh that the following remark of an author of good principle were ſcrupulouſly attended to. "I abſtain from things ſold dear, which cannot be purchaſed, but with repentance."

Injudiciouſly purchaſing of articles not abſolute

neceſſaries, is not to love one's neighbour as one's ſelf.

When prices enormous are demanded, happy would it be for the neceſſitous, and the poor, (one's fellow creatures) were they reflected on as thus: If I comply with ſuch demands, ſhall I not be the means of cauſing rumours to be ſpread abroad that diminiſh not in carrying, and which will for certainty prove injurious to my ſuffering neighbour, nay the community at large?

Houſe lambs bought in common of butchers who ſuckle, are advanced ſo high in prices, that vaſt numbers have been ſold to retailers at upwards of thirty ſhillings each. Houſe lambs bought by the year of farmers who ſuckle (having not the advantages in butchering) have coſt in upwards of twenty ſhillings per lamb.

The firſt coming in of graſs lamb in 1795, was extraordinary. Graſs lambs, ſmall and thin, ſold at nearly thirty ſhillings per lamb to retailers, farther on in the ſummer months, at five-pence per pound. In 1796, graſs lambs ſold equally dear at firſt coming, and through the ſummer months at ſix-pence halfpenny per pound, being three halfpence per pound advance in one year: fat hogs in 1794, were bought at eight ſhillings per ſcore, ſome for leſs money.

Fat hogs in 1795, ſold at from ten to eleven ſhillings per ſcore pounds weight, heads, feet, and flecks included. In many parts of the kingdom twelve ſhillings per ſcore has been paid, it being difficult, owing to the real ſcarcity of that animal, to get them at any price. Here we find an ad-

vance of nearly a third on pigs in one year experienced almoſt generally.

Cheeſe has been ſold at divers markets and fairs in 1795 and 1796, by the ton weight, after the rate of fifty-ſix ſhillings per hundred weight, or ſixpence per pound in the groſs; whilſt for ſmaller quantities, houſekeepers and retail ſhopkeepers have bought in lots at higher prices, conſequently conſumers have paid, and continue to pay to retailers, prices, which though not affording more than fair profits, are out of reaſon.

Freſh butter has ſold at eighteen pence per pound, and notwithſtanding the uncommon produce of ſummer, and after-graſs in the month of September, 1796, freſh better ſold at fourteen-pence per pound.

Salt butter has ſold dear in proportion.

Wheat in 1795, ſold at fifteen ſhillings per buſhel; in many parts much higher; barley ſold at upwards of ſix, malt ſeven ſhillings per buſhel; other grain very dear, according to the qualities, fulfilling an old adage, viz. with horn goeth corn, not with corn goeth horn, but the direct contrary. If cattle continue dear, corn will find its way to be dear alſo.

The former is an adage which experience convinces me, ought to be attended to, becauſe in England, it is likely to be the caſe always.

Wheat ſtraw, waggon loads thereof being at this time bought chiefly by weight, at half a crown, or upwards per hundred weight, although not larger in bulk than thoſe before mentioned, as bought at conſiderably leſs than one guinea in 1795 and 1796, yielded the ſellers from fifty ſhillings upwards to nearly three guineas.

In diſtant counties ſtraw ſold at four ſhillings per hundred weight.

The prices paid for lots of proviſions by the inhabitants of Briſtol, Glouceſter, Bath, and the environs thereof; alſo for other neceſſary houſhold articles retail ſince January 1795, were every where nearly alike, not differing here and there at diſtances of perhaps twenty miles, as heretofore, which in a great meaſure may be attributed to market chronnicle reportings, or other, calculated to produce general dearneſs. Thus for prime pieces of beef, mutton, pork, and veal (if weighed together) perſons paid from ſixpence upwards to eight-pence per pound. If either article were bought ſeparate in various ways more money per pound has been paid. Veal has been ſold alone frequently at ten-pence per pound, beef alone has ſold, picked pieces, to chance cuſtomers at prices never before remembered, as from ſix-pence to ſeven-pence per pound, before December 1795 arrived. Sure preſage was this of the uncommon dearneſs experienced ſince March 1796, and of the dearneſs which has been experienced through the ſummer months, until Michaelmas, which has again paſſed away.

Beſt cuts of bacon have ſold at one ſhilling per pound, inferior pieces at little leſs money.

Freſh ſcalded pork per quarter, or joint has ſold at nine-pence per pound, pickled pork at ten-pence per pound.

Having to ſtate high prices paid for favourite and uſeful pieces of pig meat in 1795 and 1796. Fore chines ſold for eight-pence per pound, ſpare ribs and ſweetbones at ſix-pence per pound, griſkins as now

cut, coarſe and boney, have ſold at eight-pence per pound.

The half of a bacon pig's head ſalted, ſuch as in my time and recollection ſold at ten-pence, and to fourteen-pence each, of eight pounds weight, or upwards, which in town or at country cottages, &c. &c. gave content, with little bread, and a frugal ſupply of vegetables to a poor family of eight perſons, more or leſs, are now ſold by weight, and coſt conſumers much more than double prices; kidneys, pig ſweetbreads, puddings, &c. which were heretofore bought for one penny, or three halfpence each, coſt now nearly treble prices.

Hogs lard has been retailed at ten-pence per pound.

One egg, an hen's egg ſold for four-pence, and continued to ſell at that price for a conſiderable length of time, even to the ſick and poor.

Quarters of houſe lamb ſold in common from eight to twelve ſhillings each, graſs lamb has ſold by hand, or by weight, high as from ſix to eight ſhillings per quarter.

If viſitors, or the inhabitants of Bath, or its vicinity choſe to go to market early in the mornings, in expectation of finding a farmer, his wife, daughter, or ſervant, with articles of the like of thoſe which ſuch country perſons were in the habit of bringing to market at aforetime, either deſcription of cuſtomers (for years paſt have been) are now certain only of diſappointment; it is rare to find farming perſons with one article other than butter, greatly inferior to that of old, which may be (in ſome meaſure, accounted for) ſeeing the pre-

ſent ſcanty ſupplies of butter and ſmall articles, as before deſcribed, are now retailed by perſons, the chief of whom are jobbers, higlers, &c. &c.

Tallow candles in 1795, and 1796, moulds, were retailed at from eleven-pence to one ſhilling per pound; common candles at from ten to eleven-pence per pound, both continuing to be vended thus dear. In ſhort, almoſt every article in the ſhambles line, in the courſe of thirty-ſix years laſt paſt, are advanced in the afore-mentioned circle to double prices, in many inſtances treble.

Fattened cattle, and ſwine, either at farms, fairs, or markets, in the ſame ſpace, appear to have riſen in value ſo much, as to occaſion ſuch exorbitancies; which but anſwer prices of poor ſtock. At different fairs and markets, on the road to Smithfield, fat beaſts have riſen to much higher prices; going through different hands, travelling,—always the effect of ſcarcity. Wherefore to obſerve the following remark, may be uſeful to one claſs of the community in behalf of the other, viz.

Land owners who let farms, taking the generality of the before-mentioned three weſt counties, or in other parts of the kingdom, cannot boaſt of having been benefited by ſuch advances on living ſtock, equal with out-goings for proviſions and neceſſary articles of houſekeeping, land owners have felt, may remember to attend to what I ſhall hereafter pen down for their notice.

The dearneſs of Bath marketings, have occaſioned boarders to pay high rates, as eighteen ſhillings, and to one guinea per week each for boarding; prices, nevertheleſs, ſtill inadequate to fair profits, or to anſwer the out-goings of boarding houſekeepers; whilſt, in addition to ſuch advances, the former has the mortification of hearing at table a detail of ſcarcity and dearneſs. Moreover, the loſs of the former excellencies of food, to entice or ſatisfy either the eye or the appetite; great inferiority in quality, of almoſt every article of proviſion, prevailing at this time.

Boarding houſekeepers, and trades people, have failed of late, notwithſtanding the utmoſt frugality was adopted. Truly memorable; dealers who paid their money chearfully, who were ſtrictly honeſt, and brought up large families of children comfortably, then placed them here and there in various occupations, in the handſomeſt manner; ſuch have—oh! painful to relate—become ſpectators of their beloved children's incapacity of doing well in trade; although well-inclined and notable, for ſuch heavy additions laid on the moſt common neceſſaries, eſpecially on the prices of almoſt every article of proviſions, has rendered their failure unavoidable. Fathers, mothers, ſons, daughters, and grand-children, have, by hard fate, been hurried into poverty, ſunk down in ſpirit, into abject wretchedneſs, become objects of pity—pining momently—at length have died in the moſt ſorrowful ſtate.

At country cottages within a few years laſt paſt, huſbandmen, other working men, colliers, ſpinners, knitters of worſted ſtockings, perſons concerned in manufacturing of cloth, with large families of children, whoſe parents formerly brought up equally large families, without parochial aid. It has been my lot to know and ſee large families at their only meal-time for the day, who have had nothing before them but potatoes without ſalt, a piece of bad bread, with water, for their repaſt; where a bundle of ſticks, or the pit allowance of coals, a few ſcraped cinders, burning to warm the family, all of whom looked pale to a degree—ſeemingly almoſt ſtarved —clad in rags, inſufficient to cover what their modeſty and innocence prompted them to endeavour to conceal. The wretched grandfather or grandmother, who but thirty-ſix years ago conſidered themſelves in a ſtate of happineſs, I have ſeen pining at pariſh work-houſes, which, in many parts of either counties before-mentioned, are ſhamefully managed.

Other cottagers, who have not conſented to go into work-houſes, although incapable, by weakneſs, hunger, &c. &c. of doing much work, have aſſured me, viz. "Indeed and truth, ſir, we have not ſeen or taſted a morſel of meat dreſſed, or broth from the goodneſs of a bone, theſe ſix weeks."

Prior to 1770 paupers were rarely ſeen in country villages, where I frequented; pariſh rates ſeldom paid with grumbling; in many not known.

No circumſtance has tended to produce paupers equal with the high price of proviſions, and the uſual articles wanted every day within doors and without. For as proviſions, candles, and ſoap, progreſſively advanced, the poor fell in, and poor rates came on with a vengeance.

In villages of Glouceſterſhire or Somerſetſhire a poor-houſe with ſix paupers therein, was rare to be found; yet, in my youthful rides through ſuch villages, I have ſeen bare walls of places, which formerly had been allotted for poor-houſes, but without one living mortal therein.

As proviſions became dearer, reſolution to work, more through weakneſs than elſe, failed. In a few years the above-mentioned allotted places, or old walls became fitted up, and thatched, whilſt a broken door, or ſlab, rags, ſtraw, or hay, ſerved —in the place of panes of glaſs—for keeping out the cold, from, perhaps, twenty almoſt periſhed old, and young men, women, and helpleſs children.

Of late, at country clubs, the ſcene changed, has preſented murmurings and profaneneſs, people attributing their diſtreſſes to their ſuperiors, and to other cauſes entirely wrong. Perhaps a knowledge of the true cauſe—moreover that remedy is at hand—may pacify all parties, more eſpecially the miſguided. Will it not be a great happineſs to find the public mind reconciled to a belief that the great have had but a ſmall ſhare in cauſing a ſcarcity of cattle, ſwine, cheeſe, &c. &c. or dearneſs of late, felt by the great, but not ſo ſeverely as by others.

Drifts of colliers horſes, ſuch as I have before mentioned were in common ſeen at Kingſwood, Briſtol, or occaſionally far down in Somerſet, or high up in Glouceſter and Wiltſhire, alas can no where be found. Not altogether on account of the dearneſs of horſe food, but owing more certain to other expenditures, ſuch as for human food and the common neceſſaries of life, by the great advances of prices which have contributed ſo heavily as to ruin many honeſt people in that calling.

If colliers drifts of horſes were of late, or now are met upon the roads, the animals ſhew as unable to carry half loads, the owners followed by almoſt naked, hungry children, form a group of wretchedneſs extreme.

The winter of 1794-5, producing ſevere froſts, killed great numbers of horſes, the properties of perſons of ſeemingly great wealth; but almoſt all the horſes the properties of ſuch like horſe drivers, eſpecially poor colliers, died in divers lanes, &c. of cold and hunger, whereby many perſons ſtrictly honeſt, truly inoffenſive, thoroughly induſtrious in Glouceſterſhire, and in Somerſetſhire, whole families have thereby been found deſtitute of the means of getting livelihoods in their uſual way; conſequently obliged, have become burthenſome to their reſpective pariſhes.

That ſuch families ſhould not know the comfort of partaking of a leg, or ſhin of beef, pigs cheeks, bullocks, or ſheeps heads, breaſts of mutton, or broth made from the bones of animals; ſeeing but twenty-five years ago, nay, down to within eighteen years, ſuch were bought from eight-pence up to

one ſhilling, which ſerved a family, cooked in divers ways, nearly a whole week.

Surely all parties will agree, this is too ſevere calamity for Britiſh ſubjects. The liberal will allow that alteration is needful, the great will no doubt ſtand forward, and try to remedy, like Britons, evils which have ſo ſeverely oppreſſed their countrymen, whoſe ſituations at this juncture are too miſerable, the more piteous, becauſe for having not brought the burthen on themſelves.

Surely for our wickedneſſes ſuch grievances have been permitted, yet it will appear in the courſe of this narrative, that ſcarcity and dearneſs of human food has not been altogether laid upon us by the hand of God, but are the effects of, and the works of covetous men; for which there has not been juſt call, or neceſſity.

Argument cannot draw me aſide ſo as to believe that the truly noble, deſire, or aim to make miſerable the inferior claſſes of the people: nor can argument ſtate the point which avaricious perſons would gain, the former to appear, (God forbid) the latter if purſued may get fruſtrated, which God grant.

In the metropolis, and in divers country towns, are there not to be found perſons ſeemingly more wretched, families deſtitute of means to obtain fuel, food, or raiment.

Taking a view of the mechanical world, there are in this kingdom many thouſands of reſpectable, worthy, truly valuable characters, with large families, who ſubſiſt on earnings, &c. of from nine ſhillings to one guinea per week; for whoſe mainte-

nances let us conſider what will one guinea at this juncture for marketings do—what leſs ſums ?

There are to be found traders, not only in Middleſex, but in towns of other counties ; alſo ſhopkeepers with numerous families, that pay taxes, whoſe profits (perhaps takings in their occupations) do not amount to one guinea in a week. That there are is but too true, whoſe ſufferings (if concealed) are no doubt more pungent, more pitiable than the ſufferings of thoſe who make a room do, and ſeemingly ſuffer the miſeries of want, by neglecting work.

Such traders or ſhopkeepers ſituations in life, and modes of ſubſiſting are more affecting to penetrate than the diſtreſſes of perſons accuſtomed to endure cold or hunger. I am led to believe as certain that perſons who moſt take to heart hardſhips, are the educated, ſuch who with hard earned monies ſaved, or otherwiſe, begun trade, and in a few years found themſelves ſurrounded with children, apprentices, or other ſervants neceſſary for conducting buſineſs, (ſeemingly well begun) but owing to fallings off of cuſtom, by circumſtances varying amongſt neighbours, find odds, making daily appear as ſinking their little properties, diſmal proſpect! children craving for food, whilſt perhaps little or no money in the houſe, the firſt caſh taken neceſſity demands it to be ſent out for breakfaſtings ; ſuch family finding to dine, and ſup neceſſary, little leſs than a third of one guinea, goeth daily out for food.

To deſcribe the feelings of a couple ſo ſituated, perhaps tenderly brought up, and obliged (as it were) to keep up an appearance of reſpectability, or

their credit ſuffers, is a taſk I am incapable of performing, therefore that ſuch diſtreſſes may be underſtood are not imaginary, but in reality prevail, and that remedy is needful, I ſhall proceed and ſtate prices as paid at the London markets, ſhops, &c.

For pieces of beef, if parts of the bullock not the moſt prime, ſix-pence per pound; if prime were purchaſed, ſuch have yielded retailers ſeven-pence, nay upwards to ten pence per pound. For ſteaks of beef, one ſhilling per pound has been paid, veal has ſold per joint at twelve-pence per pound. For pieces, and cutlets of veal, to think what prices has been paid for either, perhaps for the uſes of ſick perſons, is grievous. Mutton has been retailed at ſix, ſeven, eight, nay, at nine-pence per pound, and in certain ways, at ſtill higher prices.—Shoulders or breaſts of mutton have coſt conſumers ſeven-pence per pound, beſt pieces of bacon have yielded fourteen-pence per pound, inferior pieces little leſs money.

For ſcalded pork freſh, or pickled, from eight-pence up to one ſhilling per pound, has been paid.

Cheeſe of divers ſorts ſold from ſix-pence up to one ſhilling per pound.

Freſh butter has ſold from one ſhilling upwards to eighteen-pence per pound. Salted butter nearly as dear.

The quartern loaf at fifteen-pence. In ſhort, a price too great has of late years been paid for every common neceſſary.

It may not give offence to ſtate out-goings for one day, as not poſſibly to be done without, for a ſmall family; not that I preſume to dictate as proper, narrow living: no, my aim is to reſtore that ſort of plenty that may permit of articles enough, and to be had at markets, in order to fill bellies at moderate prices, at the diſcretion of the purchaſer of little or much.

As London prices I venture to ſuppoſe,

	£.	s.	d.
For tea morning and evening	0	0	4½
Sugar, ſuppoſe brown - -	0	0	2½
Butter ¼, ſay - - -	0	0	3½
Meat if but two pounds, or bacon if but one - - - -	0	1	2
Vegetables - -	0	0	2
Milk - - - -	0	0	1
Bread at the rate of half a quartern loaf at 7d. only - -	0	0	3½
Coals - - -	0	0	4
Candles for ſhop and houſe -	0	0	5½
For beer and ſuch articles as ſalt, pepper, ſoap, ſtarch, flour, &c. &c. - - -	0	0	7½
	0	4	0

By this ſtatement a ſum amounting to four ſhillings appears daily expended; yet ſurely it will be conſidered inſufficient; nay, too little. When the quartern loaf was dearer, a ſtill higher ſum went out. If a ſhoulder of mutton, or other part, or a bit of beef were purchaſed of ſix pounds weight only, to coſt three ſhillings and ſix-pence, ſuppoſing it to

be divided for two days, more money, is at this time required: but who can continually live in ſuch a narrow manner, debarring themſelves from other more comfortable means of living, or liquors. Nay, were perſons to perſevere in ſuch abſtinence, one pound and eight ſhillings is conſumed in one week, nothing reckoned either for rent, taxes, raiment, or the caſual expenditures of the week, nor ſtored to anſwer at times of ſickneſs, or lameneſs, poſſible unavoidably to befall mankind.

Larger families muſt conſume more articles, of courſe more money. Can complaints, or aſſemblages of unpleaſant nature be aſtoniſhing? ſuch have undoubtedly been the reſult of ſcarcity, and dearneſs of the common neceſſaries of life, and for the want of a knowledge of the real cauſe of ſuch grievances, ſufferers have been led to attribute in error, and commit diſaſtrous outrages thereby, doing more harm than good.

By ſuch dearneſs of human food, and of the real neceſſaries tallow candles and ſoap, in the country, and in the metropolis, honeſt meaning perſons, known to work hard every day, unwillingly, but unavoidably contracted ſmall debts, the certain forerunners of larger debts: thus from demands for outgoings, ſuch as rents, taxes, ſervants wages, houſekeeping expenditures, many perſons of ſaving diſpoſitions obligated, have ſhut up ſhop, bankruptcies and other wretched circumſtances have purſued ſuch to the grave. If failures have happened owing to ſtagnation of trade, in great ways, ſuch affect but a ſmall part of the community; let us keep in view the whole. Houſe-keepers not having advantages

of trade ſuffer greatly, for ſmall incomes which ought to increaſe, leſſen.

What is to be expected by the inhabitants of Middleſex, and of all the towns northward, eaſtward in either road to Smithfield, who are dependant on low counties for ſupplies, ſeeing lean cattle coſt in ſuch prices as to preſage that fat bullocks, fat ſheep, their productions of courſe, if to pay for grazing, &c. in 1797, will be dearer than in 1795. Why if prices riſe on lean ſtock, greater dearneſs for meat and other neceſſaries muſt conſequently appear impending.

At towns in Somerſetſhire, formerly the ſeat of plenty, an almoſt heart broken woman, mother of perhaps four, or more children, all hungry, all dependent on the wages of a labouring man, amounting in reality to ſix, or no more than nine ſhillings per week; or a more piteous widow, mother of ſuch a family, has come to market, or ſhop, to get meat (where horrible to tell) ſuch poor ſouls for ſeveral years paſt have ſeverally paid for one pound of a breaſt of mutton ſix-pence, a third part thereof bone, being more than was found in ſuch commodity before the diſaſtrous croſſing of the native breeds of ſheep of home and neighbouring counties took place, which ſurely cannot fail to be owned injurious to the community. The following opinions of allowed competent judges, may confirm the ſame as truly diſaſtrous: See Letters and Papers addreſſed to the Board of Agriculture. Page 67, "To deſcribe the true Dorſet ſheep may be difficult," "Page 70, the ſame gentleman obſerves, "that the

original breed of the Dorſet ſheep is very rare to be met with, as moſt of the farmers have croſſed their flocks with the breed of the Hants, Wilts, and Somerſetſhire ſheep, which have certainly improved them as to ſize."

See page 163, another gentleman's words are, viz. " the pride of ſheep ſtock, which muſt inevitably tend to the ſubverſion of the ſheep-fold, infected thoſe counties firſt. It has already gone too far in Wiltſhire."

Again, page 167, " The pride or vanity of ſtock has been almoſt as hurtful to the farmers of this diſtrict, in the article of horſes as in ſheep. In both inſtances the attention has been much more directed to get large, rather than uſeful animals."

Again ſee page 193, " ſheep were formerly not thought eatable till four, five, or even ſix years old."

See page 226, another gentleman's words are, viz. " I ſay nothing of the comparative value of the carcaſes, to the butcher, or of the eſtimation the meat of the different breeds is held in, by the conſumer. The moſt ſatisfactory intelligence on theſe heads may be obtained in Smithfield market."

Of gentlemen ſpeculating in, or practiſing farming, more was not to be expected. But, had I time, I could communicate what might appear as perfect, as intelligence obtained at Smithfield, ſeeing the experience I boaſt of, was gained by theory and practice rarely exampled.

At Briſtol, which formerly was a more cheap city, or place to reſide at (having the advantages of tides, ſhipping working in, and a weekly live market) than neighbouring towns, as Newport, Glouceſter, Cirenceſter, Tetbury, Tewkſbury, Cheltenham, Calne, Malmſbury, Chippenham, Devizes, or Bath, the inhabitants have paid nearly as dear for beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork, &c. if not for other neceſſaries, as thoſe dwelling more diſtant, notwithſtanding they can boaſt of two ſuch great advantages.

Weſtward, even down to Barnſtaple, which formerly was reckoned a cheaper country, and place for meat, than any part of Somerſetſhire, or Glouceſterſhire, dearneſs has ſpread itſelf to, and prevailed. Five-pence per pound has recently been paid there for beef and mutton.

Northward, at Worceſter, Upton, Birmingham, Warwick, Leiceſter, and Oxford, where formerly four-pence per pound was the top price, ſix-pence, ſeven, and up to eight-pence per pound has been paid for meat.

Eaſtward, dearneſs unuſual has ſpread itſelf, to Saliſbury, Rumſey, Southampton, Portſmouth, Andover, Wincheſter, Baſingſtoke, and other towns in Hampſhire, onwards to Chicheſter, &c. Having again mentioned Saliſbury, I ſhall ſay a few words relative to its live markets, to ſhew the vaſt extent of country which was, until of late years, well ſupplied therefrom, with fattened cattle—furthermore, where ſuch cattle were chiefly grazed.

Perſons unacquainted with Saliſbury may ſuppoſe that its great fairs, and fortnight markets for living fattened cattle, were chiefly ſupplied with thoſe, the produce of the county of Wilts; but I beg leave to aſſure ſuch perſons, Somerſetſhire has been its chief dependance, for the thirty-ſix years which came within my knowledge.

Moreover, there are dealers ſtill living, who, like me, knew that butchers came from Southampton, Portſmouth, and other eaſtern towns or villages; alſo from more ſoutherly places far diſtant, to Saliſbury live market to buy cattle, knowing that to ſeek for fattening oxen, or fattening ſheep, on Saliſbury Plain, Marlborough Downs, or on Mendip Hills, would avail nothing. None are grazed on ſuch ſort of paſtures, barren by nature.

Whereas formerly, out of my recollection, ſuch butchers or dealers knew that ſuch were to be found at thoſe fairs or markets, the property of Somerſetſhire graziers or jobbers. Many of the latter deſcription, old men, aſſured me, that perhaps for forty years, more or leſs, they had regularly ſupplied Saliſbury, Romſey, and Wilton markets and fairs.

Unhappily, of late years, very ſhort markets and fairs have prevailed in that quarter. An inſufficient number of cattle, to anſwer the demand has been found, whereby the inhabitants, in all that vaſt extent of ſouth and eaſterly country, have been grievouſly diſtreſſed, owing

certainly to a ſcarcity of fattened cattle, cheeſe, and ſwine, prevailing in Somerſetſhire: the reſult of which has been extreme dearneſs. The ſame falling off has been felt at Gillingham, Hendon, Chilmark, Ambreſbury, and other conſiderable fairs, that depended chiefly on the rich paſtures around Bridgewater for fattened goods.

It is too well known by dealers converſant in cattle, who traverſe the counties of Glouceſter, Somerſet, and part of Dorſet and Wiltſhire, that a great ſcarcity of the native breeds of lean, growing or full grown bullocks, or young rearing ſtock doth prevail, and that the ſame is at moſt markets and fairs viſible.

By dearneſs of proviſions prevailing, traders lay on an advance upon every article dealt in, and not without cauſe.

If journeymen artificers, have ſtruck working, to gain an advance of wages, have not ſuch perſons borne with great difficulties before they obtained, what perhaps is ſtill far inadequate to the prices demanded for proviſions, and the common neceſſaries of life? Are not articles of cloathing much enhanced thereby?

On neceſſaries, and on unneceſſaries, addition on addition has been found. But the poor by exactions of extra farthings feel moſt.

The grain wheat, if ſcarce in 1795 and 1796, was not, on an average throughout England, as ſcarce as cattle and ſwine.

Arrived at that part of my narration intended to ſhew that ſcarcity of cattle, ſwine, cheeſe,

or wheat, tallow candles, and ſoap, or the dearneſs thereof, has not been occaſioned by any cauſe originating in, or nigh to the metropolis. Be it underſtood extraordinary buſineſs occaſioned my being called to London; engaged to attend there ſeveral months yearly, in the courſe of the ſixteen years laſt paſt.

I have obſerved that prior to that period, I foreſaw weighty ill conſequences would befal us, wherefore I cloſely attended in the country to the progreſs of the practice and infringement alluded to, hearkening at fairs and markets to the obſervations of perſons of different occupations, reſpecting dearneſs, which amongſt farmers, graziers, and butchers, turned or run chiefly as follows, viz.

" The dearneſs of beaſts, ſheep and pigs, which folk do complain of, is certainly occaſioned by ſome ſort of proceeding or other at Smithfield, between the ſaleſmen and the butchers, but we cannot account for it, or how, or in what manner it is done."

Dairy men, and cheeſe dealers, complained in like manner reſpecting cheeſemongers, and factors of the London markets, &c.

Such hints becoming frequent, I had a great deſire for an opportunity to attend Smithfield market for a length of time. However, from the knowledge I had previouſly acquired of farming buſineſs, of breeding and rearing ſtock, of cheeſe making, &c. my belief was fixed, viz. that no one thing, which had ever fallen in my way bore a likelihood of having been, or could be the cauſe of the then viſible ſcarcity of

cattle, ſwine, cheeſe, and the progreſſive dearneſs, as worked up before that day on proviſions, ſave and excepted only the CAUSE which I have engaged to explain.

Providence ordained things ſo, that ſpeedily called to, I arrived at London, where my buſineſs was ſuch, that the mornings, before ten or eleven o'clock, were at my own diſpoſal. Determined thereon I attended Smithfield market, taking particular notice of the modes of doing buſineſs; there diſpoſing, for utmoſt advantage of diſtant owners, fattened cattle between the ſaleſmen, and the purchaſers, chiefly butchers.

Without partiality to either party, upon the ſacred word of truth, I applied to every particular, which I then conſidered was neceſſary to be known, according to the ſkill I was previouſly poſſeſſed of.

I declare, the buſineſs between the ſaleſmen and butchers, was done in the moſt fair and honeſt manner, according as cattle appeared there.

Aſtoniſhed at the vaſt number of cattle crowded into Smithfield, which I thought muſt ſurely prove an overflow for one market day, although years previous thereto I had witneſſed crowding in of overflowing markets, yet I could not diſcover the difference. But I was more aſtoniſhed at finding the appearance early, ſo nicely judged by the ſaleſmen, who are not only the readieſt men I ever noticed in dealing—ſelling to a wonderful nicety, amidſt ſuch crowds of cattle—but act according to the truſt repoſed in them, by

far diſtant depending cuſtomers, graziers, or jobbers, &c. who expect returns according as cattle appear there.

Saleſmen I found truly worthy characters—men to be depended on. Buſtling men, who acted uprightly between two parties; who early of a morning amidſt ſuch crowding, hinted to me, as a by-ſtander, viz. this will turn out a ſhort market.

Butchers in the habit of buying cattle alive, who retail the meat; or carcaſe butchers, judge with equal preciſion, and buy accordingly.

A few hours made manifeſt ſuch ſaleſmen's obſervations, becauſe of ſuch numbers of different ſorts of bullocks expoſed for ſale.

Before the time arrived for my departure to buſineſs, butchers, &c. who came there to purchaſe, could ſcarcely find a fat ox, cow, heifer, ſheep, or lamb, unſold.

My reader will obſerve, before this late period of time, if ſhort markets at Smithfield prevailed for a while, occaſioned either by a dry ſummer, a malady of any kind, or other circumſtance, one, or two years at fartheſt put it to rights, when plenty again came to market. But ſince that period commenced, ſcarcity has more, or leſs, been in a progreſſional ſtate at Smithfield market, conſequently the prices have gradually advanced upon ſhort numbers of cattle, and in the retail markets upon meat.

Of ſaleſmen acting in a ſlaviſh laborious calling, I gained information, viz. we have not at Smithfield as many fat oxen, ſheep, and lambs,

from your country, as we were uſed to be ſupplied with; many hundreds fall ſhort yearly, which we miſs, and regret the loſs of, but cannot account for the ſame. Furthermore their opinions were, that it could not fail to be worſe times, producing more and more dearneſs yearly, if there ſhould appear a continuance of ſuch a falling off of fat cattle from the Weſt country, viz. Somerſet, Glouceſter, Weſt and North Weſt Wiltſhire.

How ſuch language was felt by me, knowing the truth thereof, whilſt ruminating upon the effects of the diſtant cauſe, which on my return home yearly I found gaining ground, may eaſily be conceived. I have lived to ſee theirs, and my own predictions verified.

Many hundreds of Somerſet, Glouceſter, and Wiltſhire bred bullocks having fallen off from appearing at Smithfield yearly, during ſo many years. Moreover, ſuch not being to be found in the paſtures, at fairs, or markets, of thoſe counties in ſuch numbers as in former times, has produced a calamity of great national concern, reſpecting victualling ſhipping with beef, which I ſhall more explain hereafter.

Convinced that the cauſe of ſcarcity or dearneſs of cattle, ſwine, and their productions, originated not in any cauſe at Smithfield, I determined and ſought elſewhere, firſt at the markets where carcaſes were to be bought in the mornings, viz. Leadenhall, Whitechapel, Newgate, and Clare-markets, where I witneſſed the ſtricteſt impartiality, and upright dealing between theſe

ſort of ſaleſmen and retailers, moreover an aſtoniſhing nicety of judgment with reſpect to prices aſked and given.

To perſons in almoſt daily practice, ſuch buſineſs, or art, becomes eaſy, which, to a converſant by-ſtander, is readily perceived.

Carcaſe ſaleſmen, one and all, determine prices honeſtly, and according to the truſt repoſed in them, obſerving fairly ſcarcity or plenty, as either appear, and ſell accordingly.

Retailers, by experience, judged here likewiſe with equal preciſion, and ſeemed ſatisfied that they were dealt fairly by. They are a numerous and uſeful body of people, that would be greatly diſtreſſed if they were prevented from being ſo ſupplied.

Carcaſe ſaleſmen with whom I have converſed, known or unknown as to my profeſſion, have ſaid, viz. "We ſhall not find things cheaper until more ſtock come to Smithfield market; we particularly miſs horned crocks, i. e. Weſt country ſheep. We continually perceive vaſt fallings off of ſheep and lambs from the farms of Wilts, Somerſet, and the low parts of Glouceſterſhire, but we cannot account for it."

Finding nothing which cauſed diminution, or was the means of ſcarcity of ſtock at the carcaſe markets; that nothing might eſcape me, in a reſearch of ſuch importance for public knowledge, I ſought farther, and attended at the different retail markets. Viewing alſo at different ſtreet ſhops, where, although I found every year an advance on the prices paid by chance

cuſtomers for ſuch proviſions, I found likewiſe a fair and ſeeming exactneſs, going--as it were--hand in hand with, and correſponding as near as poſſible, with the advances on living fattened cattle at Smithfield.

Where by cleanlineſs, or cleverneſs of dreſs, or cutting up, a commodity, has appeared better than others, the owners (I muſt own) gained greater prices from delighted cuſtomers, which is but fair, and ſhould be the reward of neatneſs.

I will not take upon me to ſay in times of ſcarcity, eſpecially ſuch as lately experienced, and at a place like the metropolis, that reaſon may not have been forgotten, when wine was known to be but triflingly taxed, ſix-pence per bottle was laid on for wine-drinkers to pay. The public had more to expect from real ſcarcity of cattle. Wine can almoſt be diſpenſed with, but cattle produce common neceſſaries of life, not to be otherwiſe found, or done without.

At whatever part of the metropolis I converſed with retail cutting butchers, whether they bought cattle at Smithfield, or carcaſes and lots of meat, the like obſervations reſpecting dearneſs were given, one and all agreeing that alteration for lowering the prices of meat effectually to moderation only, could take place, until more, and better ſtock do again come to Smithfield.

Wherever it hath been my lot to ſee markets, or butchers ſhops in England, I no where found more fairneſs in dealing, than at the ſhops and markets in Middleſex.

When overflowing markets were frequent at

Smithfield, which was the caſe about thirty years ago, I diſcovered a practice which afforded me much contemplation; I obſerved great dealers in ſheep bought ſurprizing numbers on one market day. One of theſe ſort of dealers, a carcaſe butcher bought up between four and five hundred.

Suppoſing that no one perſon had demand for ſuch a number of carcaſes, twice a week; being intimately acquainted, I requeſted to know what number of carcaſes he ſold weekly, I received a candid reply, nearly as follows:

"On the average of the year I have an almoſt regular demand for three hundred carcaſes of mutton weekly, by perſons who retail meat, yet they purchaſe living cattle ſeldom, or perhaps never. There are certain months when ſufficient ſupplies of ſheep do not come to Smithfield, therefore I am under the neceſſity, like as were my predeceſſors, of keeping diſtant paſtures, and of purchaſing ſeveral hundreds of ſheep, when opportunity ſerves, to come in when I may be in want thereof."

Other retail butchers, monied men, ſerving numbers of the nobility, had a demand for wonderful ſupplies of meat weekly. Theſe ſort of dealers knew ſhort markets ſeldom failed to appear in the ſpring months, at a time when perhaps all their cuſtomers were in town, therefore when opportunity offered, they bought up ſheep, and ſent them to diſtant paſtures, where if they improved not in weight, they afforded certain ſupplies when called for, by which means the inhabitants of the metropolis were never perplexed with the idea of famine; nay, were ſeldom raiſed in prices.

Such practices were precarious; ſheep bought for ſuch purpoſes as this year, perhaps paying for expenſive keep, the next year failing ſo to do; however I could not diſcover any thing in this proceeding other than fair, and of real utility.

At Bath, frequently hearing gentlemen, and great graziers, exclaim to my parent againſt that practice, obſerving, viz. I have a return and account of ſheep ſold laſt market day at Smithfield, which is conſiderably leſs money than was offered for them at home. This circumſtance I ſtate as happening in autumn, at a time of frequent overflow.

Other ſuch like perſons in ſpring months exclaimed loudly againſt practices at Smithfield, obſerving their returns, and accounts of ſheep ſold, fell conſiderably ſhort of what had been offered at home previouſly for them by neighbouring butchers, or other dealers. Furthermore, obſerving they had previous knowledge of two ſhort markets following, and ſeized the opportunity to ſend their ſheep immediately, yet the return produced great loſs, and diſappointment.

Hearing ſuch language, I conceived it was impoſſible to draw a line equal to that of chance, where vaſt numbers of cattle are required to ſupply ſuch a multitude of inhabitants.

It ſtruck me, if one gentleman, or grazier, in poſſeſſion of lots of fat ſheep, heard of ſhort markets, the ſame might be heard of by others in every route to Smithfield. Thus, out-cry occaſioned overflow, which ſeldom failed to happen at that time on ſuch occaſions; in which caſe the ſaleſmen

not having poſitive orders to return ſuch fat ſheep, or other order than to ſell, ſold according to the appearance of the day; by the bye, to return fattened goods to a great diſtance, might produce greater loſs. The ſaleſmen could not compel butchers of either deſcription to give more money for goods than they were pleaſed to bid. I thought it would certainly have been better if thoſe goods had been ſold at home; but every man having a right to endeavour to make the moſt of his property, ought to know he is liable to error in judgment, and by graſping for the top of the tree may find diſappointment.

I conceive it muſt have been much more mortifying for thoſe who followed cattle to Smithfield, on ſuch out-cry, to ſtand by, and find themſelves obliged to conſent to take low prices.

It has been owned that cattle have come younger, and in a thinner ſtate to Smithfield than heretofore; wherefore I ſhall here notice rough tallow, which has differed greatly in quantities produced, and in prices during twenty-five years laſt paſt; at which time, and for ſeveral ſucceeding years, from and after the month of February, until July and Auguſt, it was common for butchers to purchaſe oxen, cows, or heifers at Smithfield, ſo well fattened as to yield or produce to twenty ſtone of rough tallow, London weight, more or leſs.

Tallow chandlers and butchers who did buſineſs at that time, know this remark to be a fact. The reaſon why, obſerve, at that time cattle were ſo plenty, that the largeſt bullocks, were allowed proper time, and were kept till ripe, then ſuch animals

produced ſuch quantities; but during the laſt fifteen years, from March until Michaelmas, the oxen, cows, or heifers brought to Smithfield for ſale as beef, have been found in a thin ſtate, ſeemingly more fitting to turn to graſs than for killing; hundreds of ſuch beaſts when killed, produced not more than eight to ten ſtone weight of tallow; alſo many other hundreds ſtill leſs, as perhaps not four ſtone of that uſeful and neceſſary article.

The aforeſaid remark may in a great meaſure account for the vaſt riſe upon rough tallow, tallow candles and ſoap; becauſe if chandlers pay ſevenpence three farthings per pound for tallow, found ſkinny, inaſmuch as to turn out much greaves, inſtead of three-pence per pound, or leſs money, in its beſt ſtate, it is accounted for.

By thin meat, conſumers have ſuſtained great injury, eſpecially in the article beef; but it has been moſt ſeverely felt by mariners; for inſtance, a piece bought has afforded the uſual quantity of bone, according to the ſize of the animal, with little lean, and leſs fat meat thereon, although bought at double, or treble prices, compared with thoſe of old.

It was about the year 1766, when in the courſe of my firſt viſits at Smithfield markets, I gained information, that a ſupply for one market day, not to be deemed a ſhort market, was eleven hundred bullocks, viz. oxen, ſteers, cows, and heifers, upon the average of the year, greateſt numbers thereof appearing on Mondays, yet barely ſufficient. But there had been frequent inſtances of double that number, namely, twenty-two hundred beaſts ſold on one market day.

In times of plenty, grazing cattle gain more time to ripen than in times of ſcarcity; when ſcarcity appears only in a ſmall degree, cattle from all parts of the kingdoms are hurried to markets in an unripe ſtate, conſequently lightly laden with tallow. Tallow was bought in the country, and without a doubt at London, at as low as two-pence halfpenny per pound. Tallow has riſen in price to ſeven-pence three farthings per pound; in the progreſs of its riſing, benefits were frequently experienced, by ſeaſonable ſupplies of Iriſh and Ruſſia tallow imported. Experience has convinced me it is from home produce alone, and plenty thereof, by which a reduction in the prices of tallow candles and ſoap can take place for permanent moderation.

If plenty be reſtored, it is unlikely tallow candles, or ſoap may again be bought at former low prices; as it is probable the taxes thoſe articles are ſubjected to, cannot be diſpenſed with.

If plenty again abound, which with certainty is attainable, a general fall in the prices of rough tallow, tallow candles and ſoap may fairly be expected, adequately as hand in hand, the chandler finding fair, and equal profits. This on account of the needy, magiſtrates ought to regulate.

Calculation on rough Tallow.

Suppoſing eleven hundred beaſts ſufficient, and the average number for one market day, which doubled as for Mondays and Fridays markets the number make twenty-two hundred beaſts weekly; wherefore counting one hundred fourteen thouſand and four hundred beaſts, the number (only) which have been ſold at Smithfield, and ſlaughtered yearly

in Middleſex, by taking twenty pounds weight only of tallow off each bullock, as from the former uſual produce thereof, a deficiency for the uſe of the public, and the revenue, of two millions, two hundred eighty and eight thouſand pounds weight appears to be the yearly loſs.

Competent judges allow that London markets draw off not more than one-fourth of the bullocks grazed in this kingdom; by adding three-fourths, admitting ſuch cattle have died equally lightly laden with tallow (which has been the real caſe generally where it fell in my way to inſpect) there will be found a falling off in the income to the revenue by lack of uſual produce of rough tallow, amounting to nine millions one hundred and fifty-two thouſand pounds weight, which would have produced as many pence, amounting to thirty-eight thouſand one hundred thirty and three pounds ſix ſhillings and eight-pence yearly.

If candles and ſoap produce to the revenue three halfpence per pound, this calculation will be found within bounds HALF, either ſum to ſave I conceive an object worthy of parliamentary conſideration.

CALCULATION ON BEEF.

Obſerving a ſtatement of a weekly conſumption of beef for the uſe of his Majeſty's navy, hoſpitals, &c. &c. 1794, to amount to ſeven hundred forty and nine thouſand pounds weight. Such a quantity at four-pence per pound (only) appears to coſt government yearly, ſix hundred forty and nine thouſand one hundred thirty and three pounds ſix ſhillings and eight-pence: whereas by reducing the price

one-fourth (only) as to three-pence per pound, a ſaving would take place to the amount of one hundred thirty and ſeven thouſand two hundred and eighty-three pounds five ſhillings yearly.

Government paying conſiderably more than four-pence per pound in 1796, it is but fair to obſerve by the means of plenty reſtored, a reduction in the prices, as paid at this juncture for beef, of one-third may reaſonably be expected, contractors or other dealers little (if any) injured thereby, who buy dear, employ more capital than when beef coſt government three-pence per pound only; in which caſe a greater ſaving would be found.

On pork I reckon a ſaving would take place to the amount of forty thouſand five hundred and ſeventy pounds yearly; upon cheeſe and butter a ſaving to the amount of forty thouſand pounds yearly. Contractors, factors, &c. &c. finding equal profits, all things conſidered.

The bulk of ſavings added together appears to make, viz.

	£.	s	d.
Suppoſed ſavings on beef -	137283	5	0
——————— on pork -	40570	0	0
—— on cheeſe and butter -	40000	0	0
By the ſame means additional income on tallow candles and ſoap, as from bullocks only	38133	6	8
	255986	11	8

Two hundred and fifty five thouſand nine hundred and eighty-ſix pounds eleven ſhillings and eight-pence, at the loweſt computation. By reſtoring plenty

of ſheep, a farther ſum may be produced by ſheep tallow, &c. &c.

It is well known by perſons experienced in the productions of ſheep, that on the average of the kingdom, ſheep produce, including the kidney ſuet, from ten to twenty pounds weight of tallow each.

An acknowledged barely ſufficient ſupply of ſheep for ten miles around, and the market of Smithfield, fat wethers and ewes for one year are one million two hundred and fifty thouſand: but good judges have computed that in times of plenty conſiderably more than that number has been ſold there.

Upon the principle of Smithfield and ten miles around drawing off a fourth, the whole number of ſheep ſlaughtered in the kingdom, ought to have been five millions. Now butchers in the country who are in the habit of killing but one or two bullocks weekly, kill from ten to thirty ſheep, more or leſs weekly, which conſidered, the bulk killed in the country, muſt be by far more conſiderable. However numbers have reduced at Smithfield, &c. whereby of late a loſs or falling off of nearly one-third are conſidered to have been experienced there.

The ſame has been nearly general; but however great may have been the loſs or falling off, I ſhall take one million only leſs full grown ſheep, ſuppoſing a fifth leſs killed yearly in the kingdom than at aforetime, which I am convinced has been the caſe for ſeveral years laſt paſt; thus ſtriking an average between twenty pounds weight of tallow, and ten, I ſet down as a loſs to the revenue from ſheep tallow the ſum of fifteen million pence,

amounting to ſixty-two thouſand and five hundred pounds yearly. If three halfpence per pound be the aſſeſſment (which is pretty well known to be the caſe) this calculation falls ſhort HALF.

If plenty of ſheep, &c. are reſtored, a ſum equal to the loſs, may fairly be expected again to come in, wherefore not endeavouring to be preciſe as to number, or ſum, it ſeems but fair to ſtate that from ſheep fat, wool, parchment, vellum, ſheep leather, ox, ſteer, cow, heifer, hides, gloves and all other articles bearing a tax which are the productions of cattle, an additional income to the revenue cannot fail to take place, equalling the ſum as before figured, viz.

255986	11	8
255986	11	8
511973	3	4

Making a ſum of money exceeding half a million yearly.

If I am blamed for theſe calculations, I believe it will be for keeping under the mark, which I prefer; but I ſtedfaſtly believe by proper management, few years only will produce to the revenue by ſavings, and addition, a million yearly, good Britiſh money.

The Agricultural Report for May 1796, ſtates the average demand at Smithfield, and not to produce one overflowing market, to be at leaſt two thouſand bullocks for one week. If ſo, and plenty be reſtored, my belief may ſoon appear to be well grounded.

Thoſe who may have revenue receipts to manage, may conceive a much greater loſs than I have

ſtated has been felt, which muſt of courſe have greatly counteracted the beſt of ſchemes projected for public welfare.

But what are goverment ſavings compared with the unuſual, the ever loſt immenſe ſum of money which has been paid by the community in the progreſſive advances on proviſions, and neceſſary houſehold articles, as meat, tallow candles and ſoap; many inſtances can prove treble prices, compared with thoſe of old paid out for neceſſaries afforded us by our Almighty Creator, with the intent for all to have a ſhare, as not to be done without.

The ſum thus paid in a long ſeries of years, to calculate is paſt my art, but what may be ſaid, provided hereafter it appears to have been demanded, paid unneceſſarily.

The idea of government ſavings, if uſeful, is of little weight with me, having witneſſed (too frequently by being in the habit of attending markets and ſhops) the hardſhips, and juſt complaints of artificers, and the poor.

It is TOWN artificers, poor working men, widows with families of children, whoſe intereſts I have moſt at heart, and am contending for; it is for their comforts, and for the comforts of their childrens children I write: for them to underſtand what has paſſed, and how neceſſary it is that plenty of living ſtock ſhould abound, which will cure the preſent diſaſters. Surely, effectually REMEDY the growing evil of the day, and prevent ſeverer, or the like calamities befalling Britons in future.

Plenty of ſtock is my hope to ſee abound, becauſe plenty of ſtock will be the certain means of pro-

ducing plenty of wheat; without plenty of ſtock and plenty of wheat, the London markets cannot fail to continue high, found yearly in an advancing ſtate, of courſe the vaſt multitudes, inhabitants of Middleſex, cannot fail to feel themſelves worſe ſituated, and likely to find, at a future time, ſeverer calamities than thoſe of 1795, which befel them.

I would not be conſidered as having loſt ſight of the country poor; an augmentation of proviſions is wanted for all.

That country poor ſuffer, provided my aſſertions are doubted, the public may feel greater ſatisfaction, and rely more on the words of one of the foregoing authors, ſee page 211, ſame publication; where it is ſaid, "The dearneſs of proviſions, &c. &c. have unfortunately broken that independant ſpirit, which, in a very peculiar degree, formerly kept a Wiltſhire labourer from the pariſh books." Again, "The farmers complain, and with reaſon, that the labourers do leſs work than formerly; when in fact the labourers are not able to work as they did, at a time when they lived better." Again, "Every landholder in the county knows it too well."

I conceive a picture equally melancholy may be given juſtly of the ſituations of country poor, in all the weſt counties of England.

Wherefore, ſeeing the vaſt extent of country formerly abundantly ſupplied with proviſions, ſouthward and eaſtward, by the graziers, or regular farmers of Somerſetſhire, by jobbers occaſionally uſeful. Seeing the vaſt extent of country

more northerly, which was ſupplied by Glouceſterſhire, north and northweſt Wiltſhire; alſo how much the inhabitants in either rout, but more particularly thoſe of Middleſex have been found dependant thereon for cattle, ſwine, and cheeſe. I requeſt the attention of my readers to an idea which may not give offence.

Middleſex I venture to ſuppoſe a canal, unto which all ſtreams in the kingdom freely ſhould run, to keep it not only brim full, but running over—yet not to waſte; as markets full has been the caſe heretofore.

If from unpleaſant, unforeſeen circumſtances, or from art, diſtant ſtreams ceaſe to afford the uſual ſupplies, the grand body thereby affected by degrees leſſens, when unawares and ſpeedily calamity appeareth.

In the year 1795, to ſupport a multitude, by new reſidents, &c. greater than heretofore, the calls for navy victualling, for merchants ſhipping, &c. inſtead of two thouſand beaſts, ſaid to be abſolutely neceſſary for the weekly demands of Smithfield market, certain days, for many months, produced, alas, little more than ſix hundred head for beef, if the market chronicles are to be relied upon. The ſupply of ſheep appeared in equally ſmall numbers; which ſevere calamity hath been in direct motion for this point at leaſt half a century; but under my view thirty-ſix years. Proving at length, the ſad effects of the real ſcarcity of cattle, and the productions of living ſtock, in the weſtern, and perhaps moſt fertile counties

of England, which I have before ſhewn, ſpared of their vaſt, chiefly native breeds of cattle, with other produces an almoſt incredible ſurplus, as a ſupply for the people of London, and of the towns in the different routs thereto, wherein dwelleth ſo great a part of the community.

Cattle, ſwine, and cheeſe, ſhould be driven to London, to ſupply its markets, at the pleaſure of the owners, from any, or all parts of Great Britain, ſubject to no reſtraint other than turnpike and toll; no matter whether by grazier, farmer, or jobber; becauſe, above all other, the London markets, which guide thoſe of the country, as to prices, ſhould, if poſſible, be kept filled. But how is that to be expected, when numerous occupiers of the beſt dairy, and grazing farms, are daily unſeaſonably deſtroying calves and lambs, producing not that which is moſt proper for markets, by manœuvring entirely contrary to right, every other turn infringing on well meant laws, made to preſerve the people from ſuch calamities, but not ſufficiently reſtrictive, otherwiſe the late calamities would, in all probability, not have happened.

Furthermore, whilſt many thouſand acres of the beſt arable lands are ſo ill cultured, as to produce little or nothing of that they were intended for, and produced of old; therefore the time, like the diſtreſſing year of 1795, was to be expected, when little more than half the quantity ſufficient was found at market, or could be procured in the country, for market uſes, for money.

Calculation respecting small Articles of Meat Food.

The calculations before ſtated on tallow, beef, pork, cheeſe, and butter; alſo the calculation which I ſhall here inſert, on ſmall articles of good food produced by every bullock, and every ſheep, omitting thoſe of ſwine, may be intereſting, and ſerve to ſhew the neceſſity of endeavouring to promote a more general ſyſtem, than is prevalent at preſent, of breeding and rearing of ſtock. Alſo the great importance of full markets of oxen, ſteers, cows, heifers, and ſheep, conſtantly at Smithfield, for a ſufficient ſupply of ſuch ſmall articles; ſince it will appear that many thouſands of perſons, in the metropolis, were ſupplied with their week, or working days food—as meat—therewith.

Such ſmall articles forming a chief part of the food of the week in every part of the kingdom, the remark may merit the attention of the higher orders of the people in behalf of the inferior claſſes; who found it convenient, and of courſe preferred, to purchaſe thoſe ſort of articles, little known by the nobility, or rich houſekeepers, to whom perhaps the idea may ſeem trivial, but, when conſidered, may appear of vaſt moment.

The ſame may convince magiſtrates, and the commonalty, that to promote the breed of cattle and ſtock, ſeeing the conſequence of ſuch articles to ſociety, merits the interference of a Britiſh Parliament, ſeeing it may have the happy

effect of preventing, in future, the ſeeking imports of wheat.

Three thouſand bullocks and upwards, have been ſold at Smithfield in one week.

In every bullock, male or female, there are found, viz.

Cheeks	—	—	—	2
Kidneys	—	—	—	2
Thick and thin midriffs, as	—		—	2
Heart	—	—	—	1
Tripes, as	—	—	—	1
Heels or feet	—	—	—	4
Burrs and rumps, as		—	—	1
Inſide piece of lean, from the 8th rib to neck end	—	—	—	1
Sweetbread	—	—	—	1
				15

Fifteen articles, which, upon the average, produce not leſs than thirty pounds weight of good meat food.

Whatever Scots, ſmall cows, or heifers, produce ſhort of weight, larger oxen, ſteers, cows, or heifers, abundantly make up.

Three thouſand multiplied by thirty, giveth ninety thouſand pounds weight weekly of good ſolid food.

Purchaſers of ſuch ſmall articles, cooked them different ways to pleaſe themſelves, and made more comfortable meſſes of food, than perſons, otherwiſe ſituated, may poſſibly conceive.

My ſituation at London, in either ſeaſon, afforded me time for rambling the ſtreets, to

obſerve the various ways wherein ſuch articles were uſeful to the venders, perſons keeping ſmall ſhops, &c. Alſo thoſe who were the conſumers thereof. After ſhort markets of cattle, I contemplated on the loſs, and its weight, which perhaps were more ſenſibly felt by me, than by perſons unacquainted with their utility.

If, by charitable means, ſtews or broths are given, the appetite may pall; not that I would ſet any againſt it, God forbid. But amongſt the needy weakneſs prevails; whereas ſuch ſmall articles, bought freſh, cooked at pleaſure, were as pleaſant to the eye, on the table of artificers and the poor, as the ſurloin on the table of the great, and full as hearty food. Providence, all-wiſe, having ordained ſuch parts of animals to afford a ſtronger gravy; which renders it more grateful to the ſtomach, and, of courſe, proper food for laborious men.

By ninety thouſand pounds weight of meat, it were fair to conclude that one hundred and eighty thouſand grown perſons were ſatisfied, as cooked with flour and vegetables. Half that number in addition of children weekly; all having variety for each week day.

Such ſmall articles ſerved certain families without bread, by choice; but when they became ſcarce, it made an inconceivable difference in the conſumption of bread.

Many artificers bred in the country, where eating fat or ſtrong parts of meat with potatoes, without bread, had been with them habitual, were not only content, nay, perhaps, preferred to live in London in the ſame way; but, the meat removed, how were

ſuch perſons to live! alas! chiefly on bread, morn, noon, and night, unlike their forefathers; for many induſtrious perſons, in town and country, have not taſted meat for many days together, which fact is horrible to me.

In the year 1795, market chronicles ſtated that few more than twelve hundred bullocks were ſold in one week at Smithfield.

Twelve hundred multiplied by thirty, viz. 1200
30
36,000

give only thirty-ſix thouſand pounds weight; an aſtoniſhing falling off from ninety thouſand pounds weight of meat, viz. 90,000
36,000 deducted
54,000

producing a deficiency of fifty-four thouſand pounds weight of meat weekly. This ſerves to ſhew the importance of cattle, and the neceſſity for removing the cauſe which has occaſioned a ſcarcity thereof; and which ſtill prevents cattle being ſeen in abundance on the face of the earth.

Sheeps heads, (as cooked chiefly for broths) hearts, and trotters, ſupplied likewiſe a multitude of perſons occaſionally.

All proceedings ſhould be fruſtrated, that tend to make ſcarcity prevalent, in or near the metropolis.

Surely the community will ſee, by the latter calculation, the real neceſſity and propriety for all farms to be properly cultured, for the purpoſe of keeping live markets and fairs fully

ſupplied with living ſtock; alſo ſhambles and other places with meat, cheeſe, and proviſions of every deſcription; articles which, of late years, have been unfairly prevented from appearing at proper places.

Londoners and others, deprived of ſuch ſmall articles, who would perhaps have preferred to purchaſe a midriff, kidney, or heart, by non-appearance thereof have been obliged to buy other parts, which would have ſupplied higher tables, wherefore the other joints of meat have been caught up at any rate.

Scarcity has greatly affected perſons who frequent, and alſo thoſe who keep eating-houſes, &c. &c. places where much money has been turned, that ſerved for the encouragement of breeders, and graziers, whoſe returns, from Smithfield only, have been amazing.

By ſcarcity of cattle many good things have been loſt; alſo numerous evils created, in their nature and conſequence, moſt likely, abominable in the eye of God.

One evil grain rooting, its produce may become a national burthen; which, in this caſe, has been ſorely felt.

I would farther obſerve reſpecting ſolid food.

If, at any time, ſo many thouſand perſons were ſupplied with ſuch ſmall articles in Middleſex, (preferring them for their week day food), in one week the number ſupplied in England, in the ſame manner, if accurately calculated, would appear aſtoniſhingly great. The returns made, and profits found, by perſons in London, who deal in neats tongues,

ſheep tongues, &c. I cannot aſcertain; but I know their dependence for theſe articles is on cattle and live ſtock.

If breeding and rearing bullocks be conſidered the ſolid baſis to depend upon, ſurely that proceeding will be found neceſſary, in order to remove, moſt ſpeedily, the cauſe which has reduced, and prevented home plenty, in order to reſtore that bleſſing, ſeeing that imports of grain tend not to produce either more cattle, ſwine, or cheeſe, but rather to the contrary.

To the point.

The calamities, ſo generally and ſeverely felt, which I have laboured herein to ſet forth in their true colours, hoping for a peaceable remedy to be the reſult, have been chiefly—if not ſolely—brought upon the community, by country butchers—that dwell not in London—carrying on, at one and the ſame time, the different arts or buſineſſes of farming, ſuckling, and grazing. Moreover, ſelling live cattle, contrary to and in violation of the laws, whilſt uſing the art of a butcher, or butchering.

An accurate ſurvey of acres, and farms, monopolized by ſuch perſons, and badly cultured, laying in different counties at great diſtances, would be attended with great expence, and take up much time.

But provided an accurate ſurvey thereof were found neceſſary, in order to be laid before Parliament, the means for doing it can eaſily be found; whereas I have already been at great expence, and have endured much fatigue in pur-

ſuit of the matter contained herein, and ſet forth for the public good; which at length enables me with ſafety to add, viz. what I have boldly advanced in behalf of neceſſitous ſufferers can be ſufficiently proved.

Ye who are the inhabitants of Briſtol, Bath, or the vicinities thereof, (ſince the eye to witneſs ſeemeth beſt) by taking a view through the villages, hamlets, and pariſhes but few miles around, you cannot fail to diſcover numerous farms, large and ſmall, cultured at this time by butchers, which will afford you ſatisfactory demonſtration, to prove my remarks are founded in truth; impartially judge; for provided you mark how the farms which uſed to ſupply you with great abundance of the good things of this life, greatly ſurpaſſing my deſcription, are at preſent handled, (it were a crime to ſay huſbanded) and how proper produces are with-held from you, the few now expoſed for ſale being out of the reach for either taſte, or ſmell of artificers, the needy, or the poor, it will ſo appear: for in many villages, or hamlets, nay, in towns, ſuch perſons dwell who now occupy, as viz. either one, two, three, four, or more bargains, or farms in one pariſh; likewiſe occupying diſtant farms of more or leſs acres, which ſeverally at aforetime, whilſt in the hands of regular farmers, produced on the market days abundance of proviſions. At this juncture may be found too many large and ſmall farms, which produce ſcarcely an article for the comforts, and common uſes of either nobility, gentry, the clergy, Town, or country artificers, or the poor, by things reared thereon,

or even for the advantage of any perſon, the occupier alone excepted, which hereafter I hope to clearly to make manifeſt.

Examples if bad in nature, are followed more frequent than examples for goodneſs; thus their manœuvres, occaſion divers other farms, whether dairy wholly, or dairy and arable farms near by, to be cultured in nearly the like manner, even by regular farmers; all of which farms, more or leſs, according as the pariſhes extend, at length evidently produce ſcarcely a third part of that kind of ſtock, and produces for human food, or common neceſſaries, which moſt farms were uſed to produce (or at this time would afford) provided all farms were cultured by regular farming perſons only, in the good old way. I have obſerved, that in the early part of my practice almoſt daily travelling to and from large to ſmaller farms, ſeeking for fattened cattle, I became acquainted with the management, culture, and produces of moſt farms within the circle of forty miles around Bath, where I procured commodities fitting for my parents purpoſes for one year, it was natural to expect a like ſupply the next.

Approaching thither, I too frequently found the laſt year's tenant removed, the farm occupied by a perſon perhaps without advance of rent, of whom I inquired, "Have you ſuch, or ſuch goods for ſale?" for anſwer it was rare, if I received other than "Yes we have, and you are welcome to handle them," *i. e.* feeling certaint points for fatneſs, &c. &c.

On the price being required, I found to my aſtoniſhment an advance, as from eight to ten ſhillings per head, more or leſs, put on fattened calves, with

a farther reply, that ſtartled me, viz. "If you will not give the price I aſk, you ſhall not have them, becauſe I don't fear making the money of them; I can kill them for market, where by the carcaſe and offal I ſhall make more money."

In this caſe neceſſity often obliged a compliance.

The ſame I found proportionably on oxen, ſheep, and lambs. Thus rapidly enſued in my practice of dealing for fattened cattle, an amazing advance, without reaſon, but entirely from avarice. Wherefore all kinds of articles of proviſions at market became ſet a going towards dearneſs; at length approached the enormous alterations of late experienced.

If I purchaſed of this new comer a part of his ſtock (no matter the ſort) it was natural to look forward for proper profits, but perhaps the next market day, he being a butcher, and in the habit of killing cattle, brought to market of the ſame kind of commodity, and under ſold our ſhop perhaps an halfpenny per pound, more or leſs; nevertheleſs, by the fleſh and offal more money was obtained for the animal he retailed at market than for thoſe ſold living; all the while he laughing in his ſleeve, whilſt more fair traders got turned off by inconſiderate deluded cuſtomers, much injured, whilſt endeavouring for a fair character, and maintenance; moreover, were too frequently deemed extortioners. Why I ſay deluded cuſtomers, is becauſe it will appear perſons who encouraged farming butchers, by dealing with them for meat, from the idea of purchaſing cheaper, have by them, without excep-

tion, been worked up to pay from ten ſhillings to perhaps five pounds per week for meat, according to the ſize of the family, more than needful, or than otherwiſe would have happened; truly enſnared, whilſt inadvertently aiding in eſtabliſhing an evil with weighty conſequences.

Many well meaning traders, to whom proper profits were due, I have known ruined, dwellers at the cities of Briſtol, Bath, and in the vicinities thereof, dealers who had no alternative divers months of the year, and dealt with farming butchers for cattle, which could not elſewhere be found fitting for their purpoſes.

On inquiring for the former occupier, I gained information nearly as follows: "You will find him, or her, at what's it farm." In very few inſtances at few miles diſtance, but too frequently ſuch removed regular farming perſons were found in deep affliction out of buſineſs, ruined, reduced to ſervitude, and to earn bread at ſtatute labour.

Approaching to What's it Farm as directed, in ſearch of goods, diſappointment was too often my reward, finding the induſtrious farmer upon his entering on his new farm, had been obliged to ſell great part of his ſtock, becauſe the ſoil of the farm he was now occupying would not admit of his keeping more than perhaps two-thirds, or a leſs number thereof; moreover, inclining to keep on dairy buſineſs, neceſſity had obliged him or her, to have laid down to green ſward for a walk for the remaining few kine, the beſt ſituated arable fields of the new farm, yet found the labours in a great meaſure vain

and unprofitable, the cheeſe made, ſubject to heave, or other diſtreſſing circumſtances, well known unavoidable effects of divers ſoils; acres ſo laid down to paſtures uſed to produce wheat, &c. &c. in abundance.

In many pariſhes land owners have laid much of their eſtates down to green ſward; for why, is not for me in this work to ſay. Let it ſuffice, it is ſo.

Such extraordinary changes and advances were the occaſion of my early ſtudying the differences of produces at farms diverſely cultured, and of making thoſe remarks which form this narrative.

By ſuch unhappy removals of regular bred farming people, I declare a real loſs to the community of the produces in grain of many thouſand acres of beſt arable lands in Glouceſterſhire, Somerſetſhire, and Wiltſhire; what is more lamentable, a loſs of cattle and ſtock reared to the amount of thouſands yearly, of oxen, cows, heifers, ſheep, and pigs, leſs than uſually were reared when regular farming perſons only occupied farms: furthermore, a loſs of ſeveral hundreds of tons weight of cheeſe and butter, becauſe regular farming perſons ſo removed, finding to make good cheeſe impoſſible, have been obliged to adopt ſuckling, and thereby purſue continually a draining off of young ſtock from diſtant country of perhaps thirty or more miles, changing the face of buſineſs at the new farm from that of the old, and producing the following weighty and diſtreſſing circumſtances: premature and unſeaſonable ſlaughtering, a loſs of cheeſe and butter, a loſs of poor oxen

and cows, a loſs of pigs, a loſs of wheat; alſo variety of attendant ills ariſing from thoſe evils, as will hereafter appear.

Ye that are the inhabitants of the metropolis, and its environs, as the greateſt ſufferers, hearken, I write not to alarm you, but to appeaſe your minds: for although ye are, and long time have been experiencing the ſad effects of ſuch management of farms; altho' you long have been at a loſs for proper ſupplies of proviſions and neceſſary houſehold articles, ſuch as your anceſtors received abundantly, moderately cheap, from a leſs number of acres than are already incloſed; you may diſcover by the following remark, that there is a remedy, and if ſought with propriety, ſpeedily to be obtained, eſpecially reſpecting wheat.

Within few miles of Briſtol or Bath, lies a pariſh where about the year 1780, the pariſhioners did not pay twenty ſhillings per annum poor rates; at that time the inferior pariſhioners picked up by leazing in harveſt, one or two ſacks of the grain wheat, which ſerved them nearly through the winter. Here men, women, and children were numerous, in employ, healthy, and happy; but before 1795 had commenced, ſix hundred acres of that pariſh were laid down to green ſward, two hundred pounds per annum paid as poor rates.

In an adjoining pariſh ſeven hundred acres has been laid down, calamities have attended of courſe, numerous other pariſhes ſhew nearly the like ſad proſpect, whereby little farmers have been terribly burdened with taxes; for the poor leaze not corn from hedges, nor in diſmal lanes; but for want fall in ou

pariſh pay. But how has ſuch manœuvres affected town people; why, obſerve, this happens to be the caſe by ſad example in the heart of beſt lands, which produced heavier crops than poor higher hilly lands, whereby the demand for wheat has far exceeded the growth yearly, working out the old ſtock; and thus at length reduced the inhabitants of England to a ſtate of unneceſſary alarm. But may it not again occaſion ſuch another alarm, when imports are worked up. This is worth conſideration, for although argricultural writers ſeem to ſtudy the farmer only, I ſtudy the welfare of induſtrious farmers, town houſekeepers, traders in little way, artificers, and the poor; for I ſee no reaſon for throwing into the lap of one to diſtreſs a multitude, (liberal farmers require it not) for there are, who foreſee the conſequences of too high prices at farms.

By ſuch ill management at farms, vaſt ſtreams have almoſt ceaſed to run towards the ſuppoſed canal; in other words, vaſt herds and flocks neceſſary for ſuſtenance, have failed to come towards, or arrive at Smithfield. Thus ſcarcity, and dearneſs of meat, cheeſe, bacon, &c. &c. has been ſeverely felt; not only by Londoners, but by dwellers in the various routs towards London; even nearer dwellers by the fountain head, who were comfortably, ſeaſonably, and plentifully ſupplied at aforetime, by or from the extreme fertile acres of Glouceſterſhire, Somerſetſhire, the rich north and weſt vale of Wiltſhire have felt dearneſs ſeverely.

Having declared that ſcarcity and dearneſs of cattle, ſwine, cheeſe, butter, &c. originated in, or by country butchers farming, ſuckling, whilſt butcher-

ing, it is neceſſary I ſhew for why; wherefore to manifeſt it as ſeemingly in the faireſt way, I ſhall next ſtate impartially, (after a few hints may be uſeful) the produces of a regular farmer on a dairy farm to milk thirty cows, with acres arable nearly as ſuch were managed thirty-ſix years ago; afterwards the produces of a farming ſuckling butcher, to prove my aſſertions.

A regular farmer, when he had engaged for an eſtate, farm, or bargain, for a term of years that would permit of milking thirty cows, with acres arable, I found moſt applauded, if he had firſt conſulted its ſituation, how it was expoſed to the ravages of tempeſt, adapting the acres accordingly, if he adhered to ocular improvements in huſbandry; if abſurdities were ſtrictly avoided, if careful attention had been obſerved purchaſing in his ſtock of cattle, in the choice of which the greateſt care I found at that time was generally deemed neceſſary for placing thereon the beſt ſorts of the native breeds of the county wherein the farm was ſituated, ſuch that appeared moſt handſome, if likely to produce the moſt money, either into the pail, or for breeding, rearing, or for ſale as lean ſtock, or for beef, or mutton.

Why I ſay native breeds, is becauſe it had previouſly been tried, and found that capital ſtock bred in one county of England, removed to far diſtant, dwindled even to ſkeletons, particularly ſheep, although not baned, *i. e.* not ſtricken with the liver rot.

That ſuch was the caſe of old, I could ſhew, but a recent experiment in Somerſetſhire may ſuffice;

See Letters and Papers, Page 358, reſpecting the Leiceſter breed, the words run thus: "The change of food and climate appeared to affect them." &c. &c.

Suppoſing Lady-day paſſed, after the calving ſeaſon appeared as far on, that two-thirds of the thirty cows had calved. The calves, if to be hand ſuckled were chiefly ſtaged, the kine milked mornings and evenings, when the ſuckler attended to the calves, which in eight or ten weeks, more or leſs fattened. were ſold (a choſen few excepted) otherways managed to be weaned, meanwhile, the utmoſt hurry prevailed in order to get to cheeſe making. After cheeſe making commenced, if the remaining ten cows calved, the ſmalleſt and moſt indifferent calves were either hurried upon the ſtage for ſuckling, or ſuffered to run a few weeks only with the dam, and then ſold to the butcher, whilſt the remainder and better formed, ſeldom failed to be weaned, the farmer preferring to have the additional ten cows milk in the cheeſe tub as ſoon as poſſible.

At other dairy farms, farmers pend their calves, the cows were turned into the pen at certain hours of the day, that the calves might ſuck.

Here a greater degree of hurry to get to cheeſe making was viſible, thoſe dairy farmers preferring to ſell off their calves at five or ſix weeks old.

At farms where cheeſe was made from ſuch a number of cows milk, a vaſt produce of whey was found, which not only produced whey butter, but ſerved as the chief food for growing fattening ſwine.

At dairies where thirty kine were milked, ſix or more large pigs were found in the ſtyes fattening;

in the farm-yard other fleſhy pigs were ſnuggling that would come in to the ſtye immediately after the firſt fattened were diſpoſed of; alſo one, two or more ſows, with litters perhaps twelve in number, the extraordinary prolifickneſs of that animal I need not enlarge upon; one inſtance may ſuffice: a ſow from March 5, 1794 to March 1, 1795, farrowed fifty-ſeven pigs.

Acknowledged good farmers obſerved to keep, (as neceſſary) ſufficient paſture lands for change.

An eſſential part of a farmer's ſtudy is change for cattle, and change of grain.

Acres arable were ploughed, whereby ſupplies of corn of various kinds turned in: thus the family were ſupplied with bread, the fattening ſwine with grain in due ſeaſon, to harden them; but when meat was plenty, reaſonably bought, with vegetables, it ſerved without bread, either at farmers houſes, or country cottages.

Millers, or bakers, to a certainty knew where to find wheat for ſupplying neighbouring towns and villages with bread.

At ſuch farms higlers, poulterers, found abundance of poultry, chiefly fed from the barn floor, with grain that otherwiſe might have been waſted; and by this means returns to the farmer towards rent-day were ſure.

When the kine became nearly dry, they were carefully bedded up with ſtraw in bartons, there to remain the winter months, until calving ſeaſon returned, all the while a little of the tops, or bottoms of hay ſtacks, or ortings mixed with divers ſorts

of ſtraw, anſwered ſufficiently for their food, producing much good manure, and permitted of ſelling better hay.

To manure the arable lands a conſiderable flock of breeding ewes, or wether ſheep walked; hence in the courſe of the year ſmall lots of ſuch flocks, or offſpring of the former became fat, and yielded a ſupply for neighbouring towns and villages, of mutton or lamb, that came to table weighty.

One inſtance of the prolifickneſs of ſheep may ſuffice; five ewes yeaned ſeventeen lambs this ſeaſon, 1795.

Such prolifickneſs ſerves to ſhew, that in a ſhort time plenty of ſheep and ſwine may be produced.

A good farmer ſuffered not one lug of uſeful land to lie uncultured, but by grubbing up thorns from banks, &c. made of ſeemingly waſtes, good land; by gripping, &c. made wet lands drier and more uſeful; planted potatoes in waſtes, raiſed plants for orchards hedges, and carefully fenced them from the natural enemy, keeping his farm neat as a garden, the ſure road to profit.

Where the acres of arable lands were adequate, two or more ploughs of growing bullocks, chiefly ſteers, or oxen, four or ſix, nay, eight in number at each plough, all reared from ſuch weaned calves, were in common ſeen wherever ploughing was diſcovered; and here neighbouring graziers knew for certain might be found a regular ſupply of grazing beaſts, from four to eight, more or leſs of the true and valuable Glouceſterſhire, or Somerſetſhire breeds yearly.

Farmers in thoſe days preferred ox ploughs, and found one or two draft mares ſufficient for a ſupply of heavy horſes.

In Wiltſhire, ſtriking acroſs from Hindon to Swindon, it was common to meet dealers, if jobbers, who had ſelected from its farms variety of young and full grown ſtock, driving the ſame to very diſtant fairs and markets, which every where in that extent ſhewed of ſuch ſtock great abundance, and proved that ſuch dealers were uſeful.

I frequently obſerved at a regular dairy farmer's houſe, and at farms not altogether dairies, the neighbouring poor came in for a ſhare of milk, whey, &c. &c. for their penny, or had it given to them, producing great relief, and greater ſatisfaction to the hoſpitable donors.

If the plough-man's wife, the threſher's, or the ſhepherd's wife lay in of child-birth, I have ſeen the hands of the good dame, miſtreſs of the farm-houſe, employed diſtributing to ſuch labourers, or to their children (capable of carrying) trifling, but comfortable neceſſaries, ſaying, " Be ſure to tell your mother I am glad to hear ſhe is likely to do well, be ſure to tell her to ſend for any thing wanting, and that I'll ſoon come to ſee her."

Such kindneſſes were not only boaſted of by the receivers, but were merited, by attention, grateful acknowledgments, and ſurely repaid, by future exertions of induſtry, and care.

Where the ſoil admitted, orchards for apples, cherries, &c. were planted, and attended to; by

which means vaſt ſums of money, eſpecially (by ſuch as were deemed fruit, or cyder years) were ſure returns to the farmer, whilſt it was rare to find a farmer engaged in more than one farm.

The benefits which aroſe from ſmall farms, at that time, were great. The country, to appearance, by ſuch being in many hands, had a far better appearance, becauſe, at ſmall farms, the moſt compleat farming work ſhewed itſelf in every reſpect: and for a good reaſon, it was chiefly the work of the occupier's own hand. If but five, four, or three cows only, were the ſtock, the ſupplies, for market uſes, of good proviſions were wonderful. On ſmall farms, ſmall flocks were found, which, in common, produced perhaps half a ſcore of fat lambs for the butcher, or lean for rearing; likewiſe at late year fattened ewes; two or more fattened pigs in a ſeaſon; a few ſtaged, or otherwiſe fattened calves, others at paſture for rearing; alſo ſeveral months of each year, ſupplies of milk or whey butter, with divers ſmall articles as before mentioned.

Where ſuch management prevailed, it was very rare if families were not found brought up, or comfortably bringing up, of perhaps ſix children, more or leſs; learning or compleat in the different manœuvres of farming; fitting for and generally found good ſervants if placed out in towns or at large farms.

One, two, or more loads of ſtraw or hay were conveniently ſpared for neighbouring towns

uſes; likewiſe a few meaſures of oats, beans, peas, clover ſeed, vetches, and ſeed wheat: almoſt every ſmall farm producing a wheat mow, if but ſmall.

Thus the markets were generally full ſtocked, and conſtantly kept, in a manner, overflowing with proviſions; farmers gladly accepting moderate prices.

This was the true ſtate of the country thirty-ſix years ago only, and thus ſituated were moſt regular farmers, who lived in a flouriſhing ſtate of happineſs; accumulating riches abundantly—thought light of dreſs or frippery—carefully attended (however extenſive or few the acres, heavy or light their crops);—

To ſecure, or houſe well;
Threſh their grain, and early ſell.

Farmers perſevering in the modes they were accuſtomed to formerly, merit the utmoſt bounties of Providence, particularly whilſt allowing common rights to their dealers—fair living profits.

To give and take is to ſtudy real happineſs.

Having lived to ſee a ſad reverſe of things, my next account is to ſhew the productions of extenſive or ſmall farms occupied by butchers, whilſt butchering and retailing meats, &c. &c.

By butchers uſing the different arts or callings of farming, ſuckling, and grazing; alſo the art or myſtery of a butcher, at one and the ſame time, a ſad reverſe of things will appear; and not only at the farms butchers occupy, but at

moſt other farms, the ſad effect of bad example, of which I ſhall briefly give a true account; the preſſure of the times, and the ſufferings of my fellow ſubjects requiring it—moderation, and reaſon being rare to find.

Taking the ſame breadth of land, ſuppoſing a butcher to occupy a like extenſive farm, admitting of thirty milch cows, and a like portion of arable acres,

When his calving ſeaſon takes place, the cuſtom, with farming butchers, has been, and ſtill is, to ſtage or otherwiſe ſuckle and fatten every calf as faſt as they come in. Hurrying them to become fit for the knife as early as poſſible, having an eye to the dear time of veal, of which every advantage has been taken to keep up the price; hurrying and deſtroying the whole number, thirty calves, his cows offspring, without weaning one.

Not hurrying in order to get to cheeſe-making to help to keep up a ſufficient ſupply at market, but for what is more to be lamented, viz. when a few—as five—more or leſs, of the thirty calves were killed, to purchaſe young calves from far and near, in every direction, throughout nearly the whole year; contriving to have milk for continual ſuckling, by which means the country has become drained of that kind of young ſtock. The ſuckling of calves for veal, contagion-like, ſpread abroad to a vaſt extent, producing thereby unſeaſonable ſlaughtering too great numbers thereof, which, otherwiſe to a certainty,

would have eſcaped the knife yearly, and ſoon become beef.

The ſame is to be obſerved reſpecting lambs, becauſe butchers, carrying on the buſineſs or art of ſuckling houſe lambs, ſoon diſpoſe of their firſt lambs, which fell from perhaps fifty or an hundred ewes, cuſtomarily at eight or ten weeks old, more or leſs, after which the neighbouring and more diſtant farms became drained, to furniſh them with ſupplies of other young lambs, purchaſed at perhaps three days, or a week old. Thoſe to be pend up till meal times, were taught to ſuck the dams of the lambs before diſpoſed of three times a day; by this means, during thirty-ſix years, the country has been yearly, more and more, ſtript of this kind of young ſtock; either of which may not be wondered at, ſince ſuch ſucklers of calves and lambs, have demanded and received of retail butchers, for calves per head, to the amount of from five to ſeven pounds; one guinea and an half for one ſmall lamb. In certain inſtances much greater ſums.

By thoſe practices, which have had an amazing run, the alarming ſcarcity of cattle, ſwine, and cheeſe, ſo juſtly complained of has been brought about.

Numerous farms are occupied by butchers in Glouceſterſhire, Somerſetſhire, and Wiltſhire; nevertheleſs we find neither cheeſe, butter, whey, or pigs, for ſale.

At ſuch perſons farms one ſolitary ſow may perhaps be found, kept for the purpoſe of eating offal, and for one, two, or more litters of pigs, chiefly ſold as roaſters. Thoſe gone, the dam is fattened chiefly with ſuch unwholeſome food.

Seeing it is chiefly for the uſe of the houſe, it is no great matter to other conſumers of bacon, who ſtudy to preſerve health by eating bacon or pig meat corn fed.

If factors, or other cheeſe dealers, apply at a farm, occupied by a butcher, in order to find his uſual ſupplies—perhaps a whole year's making of cheeſe, the conſequence now is, and for ſeveral years hath been diſappointment: ſuch dealers finding not one cheeſe for ſale, inſtead of being accommodated, as heretofore, with ſeveral tons weight thereof.

My readers will, no doubt, afford the foregoing remark time for reflection; it merits conſideration, becauſe cheeſe is a weighty neceſſary; one of the beſt articles of man's proviſion, and above all other more accommodating to working perſons, and the poor.

If a higler applies where farms are cultured in this manner, for poultry, eggs, &c. &c. he in like manner, is certain only of diſappointment, whereby the adjacent markets exhibit a ſcarcity, and dearneſs of courſe.

At this diſtreſſing time, when all hands ſhould be employed, and every poſſible means uſed for plenty; ſuppoſe thirty cows the ſtock, the whole

number were found to have been drained throughout nearly ſummer and winter; and if at barton, fed with the beſt hay to afford ſupplies of milk, which circumſtance has tended to exhibit an appearance of ſcarcity of hay, and to enhance the value thereof.

Here we find little or no bedding up in bartons for manure; of courſe valuable eſtates are impoveriſhed, exhibiting, alas, no weanlings, nor young beaſts rearing, neither to come in as cows, or for oxen.

A farming butcher ploughs little or none of the land he renteth, particularly at ſmall farms, becauſe to attend to it were not to make acres equally lucrative as paſtures, ſuch a year as 1795 excepted only; acres that before he took them were ploughed perhaps by one or more ox ploughs.

Not wanting for his own uſe ox ploughs, there has been none reared—not one bullock, either to ſupply perſons inclined to make uſe of that animal, nor for the uſe of graziers, to produce beef, tallow, hides, &c. &c. male and female have, indiſcriminately, been ſent, year after year, unhappily to market for veal.

By this practice two of the beſt breeds of Engliſh cows and oxen, namely Glouceſters and Somerſets, are become nearly extinct; a loſs greatly to be regretted, becauſe none other in the kingdom, according to frame when lean, produced in quality better, or on the bones, when fattened, more beef. Their produce of

tallow was amazing, with hides in common ſufficiently ſtrong to raiſe bens.

True Somerſetſhire, Glouceſterſhire, and Wiltſhire bullocks having fallen off, ſmaller bullocks (chiefly from the north of England and Scotland) have found their way to Smithfield; where, ſuppoſing equal numbers appeared—ſay, two hundred only in one week: a loſs of at leaſt two hundred pounds weight of beef, on the average, of every animal, has been experienced there.

Do people who go to markets to purchaſe animal food, ſeek bone to eat? if an unprofitable part has been choſen one day, ſuch was to be avoided other days: but by cattle coming to Smithfield, and to other markets and fairs, ſmall and thin of meat, contractors in want of bullocks, having not proper choice, have been obliged to buy ſuch as appeared for ſale, animals that have turned to ſuch dealers a very poor account: but mariners who cannot market, or chuſe, yet expect good ſalt meat to eat, have been ſo unfortunate as to have at meal-times, perhaps day after day, a piece for a meſs, nearly all bone; which calamity cannot be ſo well remedied as by breeding, and rearing large and more fleſhy bullocks than have been found in common the laſt fifteen or more years.

A farming butcher's chief dependance has been, and now is, on ſuckling calves and lambs, on grazing a few oxen or heifers, ſheep alſo far fetched, beſides calves drained from out of Berkſhire, Oxfordſhire, north, eaſt and ſouth Wiltſhire; or the diſtant parts of home counties ac-

cording to his reſidence; but chiefly ewes, wethers, and lambs, the produce of Dorſetſhire, rearing none of the fleecy race himſelf.. Moreover, upon extra profits gained by killing and conveying ſuch cattle to ſell at ſhambles, wholeſale and retail, or by ſelling alive, although contrary to law.

Surely ſuch practices, advantages, and infringements, to turn them calmly in the mind, are the circumſtances which all perſons will hereafter allow to have cauſed bullocks, ſheep, and their productions, progreſſively to become ſcarce, and to attain to the enormous prices prevalent, more than any other circumſtance whatever.

Fat bullocks, in July 1796, when walking, were worth upwards of three pounds per hundred weight, or four ſhillings and four-pence per ſtone, London weight; fat ſheep conſiderably more than ſix-pence per pound to ſink the offal.

Poor ſtock, every where, found dearer than recollected—and advancing. Marketing commodities yielding prices, for a length of time, if not wholly unprecedented, it was but to aſk high prices and have them.

Farming butchers by exulting, and boaſting, of what prices their ſtock and retailings were vended at, occaſioned neighbouring farmers and graziers to enhance; but many declared, that had not ſuch been divulged, they ſhould not have required ſuch high prices for their ſtock. it was but natural, they took the hint, aſked after the ſame rates, and got them, whilſt it ſerved as a

cloak for farming butchers proceedings, conſumers paying for all.

At farms occupied by butchers, if ſheep were found, ſuch were not kept for rearing, but to ſell living, although in defiance of the eſtabliſhed laws of this realm; or to kill, in either way thoſe infringers gain nearly double profits, compared with fair traders.

Wherever fat ſtock has been ſold of late, farming butchers, regular graziers, and regular farmers gained nearly alike prices, weight and goodneſs conſidered.

At a butcher's farm too little ſpare hay, or ſtraw has been found, of courſe could not be bought at moderate prices either by innkeepers, public ſtable keepers, or private keepers of horſes: whereas had all farms been cultured by regular farming people only, ſufficient no doubt might have been had for all purpoſes, much more reaſonably than of late.

Moreover, moors, commons, waſtes, &c. would have continued to appear crowded with young growing ſtock as of old.

Graziers to ſtock their lands, formerly found near home, lean cattle enough; but of late have drained by neceſſity diſtant countries, far eaſt, weſt, north, and ſouth, in England and Wales, to ſtock the paſtures of Somerſetſhire, Glouceſterſhire and Wiltſhire.

By ſuch unſeaſonable diminution of young cattle, and for want of lean ſtock nearer home, graziers and dealers have fetched lean bullocks for graz-

ing, from Buckingham, Hereford, Oxford, Warwick, Berks, Devon, Dorſet, and Hampſhires, by which draining off, ſcarcity of ſuch ſtock has been viſible and ſeverely felt in reality here and there.

A farming butcher poſſeſſed of oxen, cows, or heifers, if grazed through the ſummer in a regular way, or bought in at the latter end of the year, to eat ſuperfluous graſs, if he kills them, his double profits enables him to make up his rents as it were ſlothfully, all while plodding thus: why then, till arable lands? or why ſtudy the public advantage? My profits make rent, and rent again. Veal a ſhilling a pound, lamb a guinea a quarter, beef, mutton, pork, &c. &c. high, and riſing.

Rents which probably may ſeem paid with a greater degree of caſe, and cheerfulneſs to the landlords than heretofore by well ſkilled tilling farmers, who probably loſt the farm by malicious calumny, or by its being repreſented leſs repairs for barn, &c. &c. would be wanting; but it follows to be remembered, if ſuch rents have been advanced, and paid with cheerfulneſs, the landlords have paid double, in many inſtances treble prices for proviſions, by the miſtake of letting their lands to a butcher.

The foregoing remark may merit conſideration, before leaſes in future are renewed, or granted.

Noblemen, and other owners of landed property, would do well not to liſten to thoſe who manage for them when calumny may offer, it may occaſion the removal of one perſon addicted to induſtry, and improvements in huſbandry, and let in a tenant to

impoverish and leſſen the value of the farm irrecoverably.

Where landlords may have gained an hundred pounds per annum advance for rents (even where circumſtances, ſuch as improved lands, &c. merited it, had it been to regular farmers, moderation would have been the reſult) whilſt for proviſions and houſehold expenditures they pay two hundred pounds per annum more than were their former yearly accounts, the balance is much againſt them; it would be well perhaps to reflect on paſt, and preſent ſufferings of millions of people who pay ſcot and lot in cities and towns, and neighbouring poor; alſo on not finding it convenient as at aforetime to relieve.

Obſerve further, that in the autumn ſeaſon, and Chriſtmas turned, farming butchers attend fairs, and markets, to catch up bargains, purchaſing fattened cattle, or nearly fattened, to kill, or keep on, by which means regular graziers farms become the ſooner drained, whilſt the chief of the fattening ſtock upon the farm occupied by ſuch farming butchers live perhaps until Lady-day, or after (if this is not monopoly, I ſay by ſuch advantages the community is injured greatly) for if a town butcher, or other country butcher, a renter of fields (only proper to cool driven cattle) in want of fattened goods ſeek ſuch as are ſuitable to their purpoſes, which by the means aforeſaid, perhaps are not to be found elſewhere; on inquiring at a farming ſuckling butcher's reſidence, they hear of prices that cannot be afforded, prices demanded which permit not of

profit; what to do in this caſe diſtreſſes the mind of the chapman, to comply dearneſs follows at his ſtall, to bid lower, avails nothing, the owners inflexible ſtand out.

Suppoſing the goods in queſtion not purchaſed, the owner holding out until finding no chapman to purchaſe to his mind, ſuch ſtock living having an alternative, at length killeth his goods, which if he ſelleth at market to retailers, it is juſt at what price he pleaſes; or if he vend the commodity by retail, (having few or no yearly cuſtomers) it is conſiderably dearer than common retailers, or than thoſe who buy living cattle to kill and retail engaged to ſupply families yearly, where any advanced price were not to fulfil engagements that ought fairly to be obſerved. Thus retailers deſtitute of other means for a livelihood, have to encounter difficulty, loſs of money and credit, all while the farming butcher having done his part towards thinning the country, is the firſt perſon heard complaining of ſcarcity and dearneſs, obſerving, viz.

"There is little, or no goods in the country;" thus an alarmed multitude of conſumers worked up, give more money for their food than reaſonable, or than requiſite to be demanded.

April and May 1796, proved the foregoing remark in Bath market, in the following manner:

Farming butchers were then almoſt the only perſons who produced at market, beef for chance ſale, ſuch inſatiable dealers ſold lots of beef to retailers at ſix-pence halfpenny per pound, coarſe and prime pieces.

Viſitors, reſident houſekeepers, paid prices out of reaſon, inferior claſſes ſcarcely finding chance for the coarſeſt bit, the poor ſcarcely any to live on: provided the beſt of men were to underſtand this, Britons hereafter may ſpeedily enjoy plenty, happineſs; moreover by unanimity inſeparable would protect him and thoſe, bleſſings.

Thirty-ſix years ago, butchers were not driven to the neceſſity of being thus dependent on each other, neither ſhould they. At that period country butchers with no more than ſufficient acres to cool their cattle, and by ſkill in dealing among regular farmers, all by hand, found profits adequate for rearing numerous families, ſaved fortunes, plenty of cattle and ſwine abounding; but of late well meaning induſtrious butchers in town and country, endeavouring to get maintenances for their families by doing buſineſs in ſeemingly proper way, have failed and become wretched.

Wiſe men of old foreſaw weighty ills would be the reſult of butchers attempting what ought to be farmers or graziers work, or by uſing certain other buſineſſes.

Man's underſtanding is weak, neverthelefs time and experience help, and may convince that more coercion than was deemed needful centuries paſt, at other ſeaſons, and in certain caſes may be found neceſſary.

That our forefathers did, in caſes perhaps ſimilar to the preſent time, I conceive will appear well meant.

Statutes at large ſhew the laudable care perſons in power formerly took to prevent butchers making

ſtrides too widely in certain buſineſſes that might prove injurious to a neighbour, more particularly to the community at large.

Statutes at large pronounce, viz.

See 3 and 4 E. 6. c. 19. "Butchers not to buy cattle to ſell again on pain of forfeiture."

See 21 Jac. 1 c. 22. "Butchers not to uſe the trade of a tanner under the penalty of 6s. 8d. per day."

"Butchers may be guilty of offences againſt the law, 1. In buying. 2. In killing. 3. In ſelling cattle."

See page 271. cap. 8. of ſtatutes at large, from the firſt year of king James the firſt, to the tenth year of the reign of king William the third, an act to prevent the ſelling of live and fat cattle by butchers.

"Whereas by an act made in the third and fourth years of the reign of king Edward the ſixth, it is enacted, that no perſon uſing the craft, or myſtery of a butcher ſhould buy any fat oxen, ſteers, runts, kine, heifers, calves, or ſheep, and ſell the ſame again alive, upon pain of forfeiture of the cattle ſo ſold, which law hath not wrought ſuch effectual reformation as was intended, by reaſon of the difficulty in the proof of ſuch buying and ſelling being for the moſt part at places far diſtant, if not in ſeveral counties, by means whereof the parties ſo offending have eſcaped unpuniſhed.

"Be it therefore enacted by the King's moſt excellent Majeſty, by and with the advice and conſent of the Lords ſpiritual and temporal, and Commons in this parliament aſſembled, and by the au-

thority of the ſame, that no perſon uſing the trade of a butcher, ſhall at any time from and after the feaſt of St. Michael the Archangel next enſuing, ſell, offer, or expoſe to ſale in any market, or elſewhere, either by himſelf, or any ſervant, or agent whatſoever, any fat oxen, ſteers, runts, kine, heifers, calves, ſheep, or lambs alive, upon pain to forfeit the double value of the cattle ſo ſold, or offered or expoſed to ſale as aforeſaid, the one moiety of which forfeiture ſhall be to the King's Majeſty, his heirs and ſucceſſors, and the other moiety to him or them that will ſue for the ſame in any of his Majeſty's courts of record, by bill, plaint, action of debt, or information, wherein no eſſoin, protection, or wager of the law ſhall be allowed."

Farming and other butchers, dwellers in Somerſetſhire, Glouceſterſhire, and Wiltſhire, and in other counties during thirty-ſix years laſt paſt, ſold with ſeeming impunity, immenſe numbers of fattened and lean, young, and full grown cattle alive, contrary to and in defiance of the aforeſaid ſtatute, which (if in force) is not ſufficiently reſtrictive: however, a recent circumſtance, which happened in London may ſerve to ſhew its power:

A butcher for ſelling a living ox for nineteen pounds, forfeited thirty-eight pounds. All butchers ought to know they ſtand in a like predicament, provided they ſell one, or to an hundred of either ſort of cattle alive, and that gold gained by ſo doing is gained in an unlawful way.

It may be urged, (of which I am aware,) that I hereby tell too much; perſons may not only diſap-

prove of my ſtory, but may pique at me for coming thus forward. Authors do not always make to themſelves friends; foes, right or wrong, may ridicule my aſſeverations,—why, let them. Miſeries call aloud for redreſs—call for one perſon or other to explain the cauſe thereof however ſimply, if by honeſt facts. Mine is that lot; and whether I am applauded, thanked, ſlighted, chaſtened, rewarded here, or not, I do it, ſeeing "to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is ſin."

Hereafter the eyes of Britons may be open, hereafter may acknowledge theſe my remarks eſſential; for it has been ſaid, all perſons ſhould aſſiſt to bring about a remedy at a time of ſuch calamity. This is my mite offered to effect public good.

The idea of prejudice bears not weight ſufficient to cauſe me to with-hold my pen in a cauſe that concerns the public to know. In the counties of Glouceſterſhire, Wiltſhire, Somerſetſhire, in divers pariſhes, butchers occupy from one to ſix in number, extenſive and ſmall farms, which ſeverally at aforetime were occupied by regular farming perſons, who in their little way ſhewed content on portions of lands, rented at from forty to perhaps one hundred pounds per annum, more or leſs, either producing a barn, or the like, ſtored properly, owing to the then culture of ſuch little farms.

By certain produces from induſtry done, huſbandry for neighbours, ſome at home ſpinning, others knitting, &c. &c. made maintenances for numerous families, all employed, produced ſupplies of markets prodigious.

The exact contrary doth now prevail, ſmall farms being for the moſt part cultured, managed in other ways.

Ploughmen, ſhepherds, and threſhers, in many pariſhes are become rare, not altogether owing to the war, but more owing to ſuch practices at farms.

I declare no veſtige of a barn is left on numerous ſmall farms; whilſt (if found at one) it is uſed as a ſlaughter-houſe; at another uſed for ſuckling calves, or lambs, or both; thus for want of grain raiſed at either, alas! ploughman, threſher, or ſhepherd there, appear as almoſt uſeleſs.

This being the caſe in reality, more eſpecially where ſmall farms have been ſo monopolized, or conſolidated, can depopulation, ſcarcity of cattle, ſwine, cheeſe, butter, grain, or dearneſs thereof be wondered at?

Of thoſe ſorts of labourers, moſt uſeful perſons, provided one or more are here or there found with a laying-in wife, neither can boaſt of kindneſſes ſuch as were hoſpitably given at their birth.

In many villages it is difficult to procure for money (for the ſick or well, old or young) even a pint of milk, becauſe the ſuckling calves muſt not be ſtinted; they ſuck up, or ſpoil every drop.

Thirty years ago it was common with regular farmers, occupying ſmall farms, &c. particularly in Somerſetſhire and Glouceſterſhire, to take in poor growing young ſtock to winter.

This practice was of great utility to the community, which practice all farming ſuckling butchers finding inconvenient, avoid.

This circumſtance has tended greatly to the alarming diminution of ſtock; that loſs having been many years experienced by Up Hill, chiefly Wiltſhire farmers, has prevented the rearing of many thouſands of ſheep yearly.

Farmers poſſeſſed of from ten to twenty or thirty, nay, more lambs, for want of that chance, and proper fodder, ſold off the ſame to be killed.

That ſmall portions of lands have been monopolized in Wiltſhire; that putting out young ſtock to winter was common heretofore, in order to more fully ſatisfy, ſee Letters and Papers, &c. page 120. where, with other good information, the words run thus, viz. "and frequently many of them occupied by one perſon." Again, ſee page 128. "and put out the ewe lambs to winter either on paſture lands, or turnips in other parts of the county, and frequently in adjacent counties."

Ye who are the inhabitants of Middleſex, but more particularly of the metropolis; alſo of Portſmouth, of Saliſbury, and other towns and villages eaſtward, have the goodneſs to underſtand, that ſuch monopolized farms, ſmall or extenſive, in High Wiltſhire, were of little conſequence as to produces of animal food, &c. (when ſeparately occupied) to you, the great evil or cauſe of your and our ſufferings originated in, and is the reſult of ill culture, wrong management of ſmall and great farms of Somerſetſhire, Glouceſterſhire, weſt and north weſt Wiltſhire.

Again, ſee page 208, ſame publication.

" It is undoubtedly for the intereſt of the community that cattle ſhould be grazed ſomewhere," &c.

Such were, ſuch ought now to be found ſufficiently abundant in the fertile paſtures of the weſt counties before mentioned. Paſtures allotted by our Almighty Friend, for grazing for our uſes full grown oxen for beſt beef, cows and heifers; full mouthed ſheep for beſt mutton, chilvers, &c.

The ſame is to be obſerved northward, from Birmingham acroſs to Smithfield, becauſe the bleak hills of Derbyſhire, nor the Cotſwold hills abound not with fattening oxen, or fattening ſheep; parts of Cheſhire and Shropſhire may be added.

By the vaſt diminution of young ſtock for food for the day, by the loſs of native breeds of cattle in Glouceſterſhire, Somerſetſhire and Wiltſhire; eaſtern counties, as Suſſex, Suffolk, Kent, and Norfolk, which uſed to ſupply Smithfield greatly, have been ſo drained of native ſtock, and ſo ſcantily ſupplied from the north, from Wales, &c. with lean beaſts, that when fattened, few more than neceſſary for home conſumption has been found, unlike aforetime; the prices enhanced of courſe.

With reſpect to monopoly, or what is commonly called jobbing of cattle, taking firſt Middleſex, where its conſequences are moſt ſeverely felt. I conclude as certain, that no ſaleſman, nor ſpeculating dealer would monopolize at Smithfield, nor any where in the neighbourhood of London, provided plenty of cattle were known either by letters, or elſe, to abound in the country. I pronounce that

buſineſs occaſioned by ſcarcity, having firſt diſcovered itſelf.

No ſaleſman, or dealer, in his ſenſes, knowing the leading roads to the metropolis crowded with cattle for Smithfield, would venture and buy up the produce at market, as to-day, ſeeing for certain ſufficient ſupplies were at their heels, for the next market day. Surely to job in this caſe would be madneſs; for no perſon could have other than a very dubious proſpect of making it worth while.

Monied men ſpeculate in times of ſcarcity, and to an almoſt certainty get the good looking guinea, however diſtreſſing to the community.

Even leſs time than thirty years ago, owing to almoſt continual overflow at Smithfield, complaints of ſaleſmen monoplizing of cattle were ſeldom or ever heard.

Few perſons in times of plenty, attempted jobbing of cattle in the country, but ſuch as were unacquainted with other buſineſſes, who by making profitable hits five times out of eight only, probably made livelihoods.

For certainty to the inhabitants of the metropolis, to thoſe of other towns widely ſituated, jobbers, even in times of plenty were found uſeful: it follows to be underſtood likewiſe, that in times of ſcarcity, jobbers, farmers, and graziers have the advantage of the public, may have left (by far too frequently) conſcientious moderation out of the queſtion.

Such dealers have had every poſſible chance thrown in their way; one and all know how (particularly in times of ſcarcity) to keep things up, make ſuch a

quantum ſuffice to obtain even enormous prices: plenty in this caſe being moſt deſirable, ſhould be aimed at for a turn of the ſcale.

Had this book been publiſhed, as was intended about the cloſe of the year 1794, much of the calamities ſince then experienced might have been attributed to its appearance, and have cauſed me unhappineſs; but I now feel affliction unſpeakable, on account of artificers and the poor, my fellow ſubjects, thinking on what has happened, and what is likely ſtill to befal them; becauſe before now many thouſands of young cattle and pigs would doubtleſs have been found rearing; ſuppoſing cow calves, ſuch in two years only, would have produced heifers with calf, and ſhortly milk into pail; heifers, which if ſuſpected as not likely to become good milkers, might otherwiſe have been fattened; ſuch before three years had expired, ſupplying upon the average from five to ſeven hundred pounds weight of beef, beſt hides, good tallow, &c.

If male calves, ſuch as ſteers, in the third year, better beef, of much more weight—if kept for oxen, ſix years old is univerſally admitted the longeſt time needful to produce the beſt ox beef, affording upon the average, from ſix to ten hundred pounds weight of beef, more or leſs, according with the ſorts of breeds; and if allowed to ripen, at leaſt three quarters of a hundred pounds weight of tallow each; but ſuch when killed for veal, afford a light ſkin, and rarely four pounds weight of tallow for chandlers uſes: whereas in their beſt ſtate, ſteers, or oxen, would have afforded heavy hides, &c.

By the taxes on leather, buttons, horn, tallow candles and ſoap, the produce of full grown bullocks, an immenſe ſum to the revenue.

If lambs, two years old only would have produced vaſt flocks, if of ewes, thouſands of ſuch ewes in that ſmall ſpace of time big with young.

If wether lambs, three years were ſufficient time to have filled England with mutton.

If preſerved longer, four years is an age the utmoſt allowed as neceſſary for the beſt mutton, and in that time three full fleeces of wool.

To have publiſhed growing ſcarcity ten years ago, would no doubt have been deemed madneſs; to have publiſhed it in 1794, might have been condemned as wicked; or as conjecture, put together with an ill intention to diſturb the people of England: but it cannot at this time fairly be ſo condemned. That which might have been ſtiled idle predictions, holding out ſcarcity and dearneſs as likely to come to paſs before Michaelmas day 1795, has unhappily been verified with a vengeance at London, and moſt other places; notwithſtanding there has been found jobbers, dealers in cattle, ſwine and cheeſe, trying to ſupply the London markets in every part where fat goods were to be bought.

I ſhall mention certain inſtances wherein jobbers, heretofore were found uſeful.

I knew a man a native of Huntſpill in Somerſetſhire, who was many years in the habit of buying up near his home, and at diſtant fairs and markets, oxen, ſteers, heifers, ſheep, and lambs, according to the ſeaſon of the year, with which he travelled, and either, occaſionally ſold, through the route of Hindon,

Chilmark, Wilton, Saliſbury, &c. eaſtward, even to Smithfield.

This man was found uſeful, eſpecially in months when dearneſs by ſhort markets prevailed, which in that route at moſt places were known, and their conſequences pretty ſeverely felt in the ſpring months thirty years ago.

His buſineſs was to ſupply: he took neceſſary care and did it.

He bought up a yoke of fat bullocks, or two yokes, or the ſingle heifer, or ſteer of diſtant perſons, who otherwiſe would not have ventured ſo far, or even ten miles with a trifling commodity.

The ſame is to be obſerved by ſmall lots of ſheep, large droves were made up: thus he kept his cuſtomers together, although at perhaps road expences, or if but at prime coſt; even Portſmouth, Southampton, and Rumſey butchers depended on him certain months for ſupplies, and were by him well ſerved.

Another conſiderable jobber in the weſt country, was many years in the habit of ſupplying at Briſtol live markets weekly, ſeveral hundreds of fat ſheep, and many fat bullocks: he dealt for ſheep and bullocks as low down in Devonſhire as Bow. This may ſerve to ſhew the then appearance of approaching ſcarcity in Somerſetſhire, Glouceſterſhire, and Wiltſhire, which to experienced dealing perſons of his day was viſible in reality.

Little time prior to twenty-five years ago, a jobber was rarely known at Briſtol market, it being well ſupplied from near farms: whereas, during his

time, butchers even from Devizes, Calne, Chippenham, Bradford, Trowbridge, Frome, Bath, and at the city of Briſtol, ſeveral ſpring months, and during many years were dependent on him for ſupplies of fat cattle, particularly ſheep: ſuch butchers frequently obſerving, "Were it not for that jobber, we ſhould not have fat ſheep to kill, nor our cuſtomers any fat mutton to eat."

In this caſe, in his day he was a uſeful jobber.

This may ſerve to ſhew, that ſheep have been becoming more and more ſcarce upwards of twenty years in the neighbourhoods where ſuch a ſtring of country butchers reſided.

About twenty years ago, he gained certain information of ſhort markets being almoſt conſtantly prevalent at Smithfield; and all the while he did ſo much buſineſs at Briſtol, he bought up much other cattle, far weſt, and ſent them through various routs to London. This circumſtance may ſerve alſo as a peculiar proof to the inhabitants of Middleſex, that cattle have been falling off in appearances at Smithfield nearly as I have related.

Thoſe who are inhabitants therein have ſenſibly felt the advances in prices. I herein have ſhewn the true cauſe; its foundation, which I make no doubt will be believed.

That there has for a conſiderable time been, and ſtill doth exiſt, real ſcarcity of cattle, and other farming ſtock: and that that ſcarcity has been occaſioned by country butchers farming, ſuckling, &c. &c. may be diſbelieved, but it cannot with truth be refuted.

To get the better of ſcarcity, which has of courſe produced dearneſs of cattle, ſwine, beef, veal, mutton, lamb, bacon, pork, cheeſe, butter, tallow candles, and ſoap; alſo grain, ſtraw, and hay: to remedy it effectually, were it not prudent to remove the evil? to do which, I conceive the taking away the power of committing it, beſt, wherein the interference of parliament cannot fail to be deemed neceſſary; for it can moſt ſpeedily bring about a more general ſyſtem of breeding, and rearing ſtock, perhaps for the welfare and glory of England, the only thing certain, becauſe plenty of ſtock cannot fail by nature to promote the growth of wheats, chief ſtaples of the nation.

Either of the above ſorts will become ſpeedily more and more plenty, of courſe more and more moderate for conſumers, and government will find the good effects of it.

At a moment like the preſent, the inhabitants of Middleſex claim the thoughts of all honeſt dealers in cattle and grain, and ought to be kept in view in preference to all other, on account of their number.

To cruſh immediately that one evil, jobbing (an hanger-on only) requires nice caution; for by doing it too haſtily, the multitude there would more than likely, too ſoon find themſelves diſmally ſituated. I have ſtudied the arduous taſk, to do for all ſufferers ſufficient good, I propoſe means to keep up the largeſt ſupplies poſſible at Smithfield, and other markets, to do generally the good needful, the leaſt injury; an idea for thoſe in power not to looſe ſight of.

Sufficient will be done for the whole of the community in this caſe, by preventing, on any pretence whatever, country butchers farming, grazing, ſuckling, or ſelling living fattened or lean cattle, whilſt carrying on, or uſing the art or myſtery of a butcher, ten miles around London only excepted.

This remedy is but trifling to accompliſh. Few perſons, if any, would be found that could complain in the ſmalleſt degree juſtly, of being hurt thereby, farming ſuckling butchers only excepted, whoſe practices have nearly occaſioned a removal of a nation's comforts for diſaſters which may aſtoniſh; but it is the caſe, ſeeing almoſt every calamity known, touching ſcarcity and dearneſs of food and common neceſſaries of life, which appertain to bullocks, ſheep, and ſwine, may be traced thither for the origin.

The number of young calves drained from the northward and eaſtern borders of Glouceſterſhire, from moſt parts of Wiltſhire, together with thoſe picked up in Somerſetſhire, at and in the neighbourhoods of the cities of Briſtol and Bath, by butchers who ſuckle; and by farmers who from example, have preferred ſuckling of calves to the making of cheeſe, on account of the enormous prices of veal, I have calculated to have amounted to at leaſt ten thouſand yearly, more than were deſtroyed on the average for that article, thirty-ſix years ago in that circle.

I do not mean to ſay, that ten thouſand of calves yearly, more than at aforetime, have been eaten as

veal, in the aforeſaid circle; for ſince the year 1776, perhaps a third, more or leſs of the number ſaid to be killed, have been ſent to London as veal, in the ſpring months, to anſwer as food, in the room of bullocks ſo fallen off at that time, owing to what had previouſly been done in the country, where in ſixteen years prior to 1776, the practice of calf ſuckling had drained off from neighbouring counties, and had done ſo much miſchief as to occaſion ſhort markets of bullocks at Smithfield, to be more frequent, and more and more ſparing every ſucceeding ſpring than before known; which occaſioned ſpring mornings at Newgate market, &c. a greater demand for young food.

Perſons who had been long in the habit of ſending veal from the upper parts of Wiltſhire, during calving ſeaſons, found their returns advance; wherefore they entered more extenſively into the ſpirit of ſlaughtering calves to ſend thither.

This was ſoon diſcovered. Butchers in the towns and villages of weſt and north weſt Wiltſhire, who cuſtomarily carried the bulk of thoſe they killed, weſtward, took up the London buſineſs.

The number of calves ſlaughtered for that purpoſe, has been incredible: ſuch veal has been conveyed up by the ſtage waggons in every rout therefrom, meeting to take it up at Melkſham, Devizes, Chippenham, Calne, Swindon, Marlborough, &c. &c. and although every year more and more of that buſineſs has been done, greater prices have been returned, becauſe every year leſs number of bullocks came to market, every market day more young food has been demanded.

Since the year 1776, the ſides of bacon conveyed to London, owing to the ſame circumſtances, from Somerſet, Glouceſter, and Wilts, have been incredible. At length, by ſuch premature ſlaughtering, the country got thinned: cows, heifers, ſteers, and oxen, became ſcarce; likewiſe their productions, as meat, cheeſe, butter, tallow candles, and ſoap, ſwine alſo, and dearneſs of courſe.

Briſtol and Bath markets ſoon experienced the falling off of veal ſpring months, by the foregoing dealers changing their routs to markets with dead calves; by which means ſucklers, and butchers, who have produced fattened calves for veal, for Briſtol, Bath, and their vicinities, have been enabled to demand, and gain their own prices.

The ſcarcity felt of late being the reſult of ſuch practices, has come upon the public ſimilar to the accumulation of intereſt upon intereſt —ſtill advancing—which, being certain, to alter it for the better as ſpeedily as poſſible, would be doing right.

The conſequence of ſuch a reform would be a certain produce of much good proviſions, whereas no man can for a certainty ſay, that poor veal, which has been killed, and that too young, and eat for the food of the day, has not killed a multitude of people; thoſe in years, in particular; moreover, there would be leſs call for houſe or graſs lamb, particularly late in the year, and thereby many thouſands of ſheep reared.

Formerly either ſort of lamb, at late year, was conſidered of little uſe to the commonalty, the former ſort always above their pockets; the latter ſort, as affording little nouriſhment. Even the heads of the nation made game, poultry, &c. &c. ſerve at table inſtead of veal and lamb, from late year, until calving and lambing ſeaſon came round. Good beef of oxen, ſteers, martin heifers, old wether mutton, and buck veniſon were certain friends to longevity.

Of late too many houſe lambs have been ſlaughtered; but the number of graſs lambs ſlaughtered, and ſubſtituted as a chief article of food, for want of older in ſpring, ſummer, nay autumn months, for ſeveral years paſt, has been beyond conception, and out of my power to calculate. Let it ſuffice, that the converſation at fairs, &c. runs thus, viz. "There is not half ſufficient ſtock in the country."

The following lamentable fact is the reſult thereof:—

At Weſt-Country fairs, ſince Palm Tueſday 1796, poor ſheep have been bought in, to graze around Landſdown, at as high as fifty ſhillings each; ſheep, when fattened, that at beſt will produce but a few pounds more of mutton, per quarter, than thoſe I firſt deſcribed, were bought, compleatly fat, at one guinea per ſheep.

This preſageth future dearneſs, with a vengeance, for purchaſers of mutton.

Respecting consolidated, or monopolized Farms.

Thoſe perſons who, during the laſt thirty years, have been here and there monopolizers of farms, by diſcovering the ſpeedy effect of ſuch a reform, viz. a more general ſyſtem of breeding for rearing ſtock; the making of cheeſe more prevalent; and grain ſpringing up on every farm, would quickly diſcover, likewiſe, that the holding or occupying many farms, would be to err.

On reflection, perceiving the approach of plenty, they would doubtleſs ſay, "It will overcome my purſuits—it will overcome my efforts—planned ſeemingly ſufficiently wary, ſo as no art of man could ſubvert, or to defeat even the wiſdom or power of parliament—efforts planned to keep up prices; but, alas! the farms which I managed with eaſe, in the time of ſcarcity are clearly a burthen to me.

"I found it worth while to monopolize farms; to half or ſcantily culture them; I kept but few labourers, yet the extraordinary high prices, obtained at markets for the productions got in with trifling outgoings, afforded me ſuch profits, that with great eaſe I could pay the rents, and accumulate heavy bags of gold.

"The productions which for years paſt I made ſuffice, reducing in value at market, more work muſt be done; more workmen muſt be em-

ployed as neceſſary to till my farms, to raiſe more extenſive crops; wherefore, I find Iam not likely to make anſwer the holding as heretofore many farms."

That farmer, in corn counties, found occupying three farms, if in a ring-fence, might fairly be expected to give up one, if not two, finding enough work to do upon one good farm, as perhaps did his forefather.

More may be expected from farmers who have occupied five or ſix farms, diſtant from each other, perhaps twenty miles, more or leſs; to manage which, of late, one huſbandman at each farm, perhaps proved ſufficient to overlook a few under-labourers, whilſt ſcarcity gained ground: but a new face of things appearing, would ſo much affect, that ſuch farmers, rather than wait the expiration of their leaſes, would prefer and quickly let the more diſtant farms to other perſons, who, to make up rents, and to provide for themſelves or families, would not only work every lug, nay, perhaps every foot poſſible of ſuch farm; and by ſo doing, help to keep neighbouring markets well ſtored with meat, poultry, and grain.

With reſpect to there having been too many horſes bred and kept in uſe in the kingdom, and fewer ox ploughs uſed than formerly, my readers will obſerve, that in ſtating the divers produces, according as farms were cultured, I have obſerved, that farming butchers, ſpeaking of them generally, rear no ploughing beaſts, although they occupy numerous farms, lets, bargains, extenſive and other; wherefore, I firſt declare a loſs to the community of

plough beaſts, oxen, and ſteers, conſidering that when thoſe farms, lets, and bargains were ſeverally cultured by regular farming perſons, from two to four, ſix, eight, or ten young beaſts were heretofore found yearly on one ſmall bargain, reared, and fitting for ſale, equal to four on the average; whereby the number of oxen on ſuppoſition not reared as heretofore, I conceive is fairly to be named half of the before ſtated number of calves unſeaſonably deſtroyed yearly. Farming butchers, and ſucklers, have taken care to get into the poſſeſſion of farms of deep rich lands, ſtrong enough to produce milk nearly the whole year through; ſuch farms where mild ſeaſons young beaſts were known to have picked a livelihood with little fodder; yet ſurely found at ſpring in a thriving ſtate: whereas, the removed farmers; who uſed to rear plough beaſts on each, or this identical farm, when got into the poſſeſſion of thinner lands, if his dependence has been to make cheeſe, he failed of profit, by reaſon as before deſcribed: if he would wean calves, and rear that kind of ſtock, his thin lands admit it not; either for advantage or ſafety—if he would plough with oxen, he cannot raiſe ſuch provender as ſhould afford proper nouriſhment to keep oxen ſtrong and healthy. Thus, for ploughing his lands, inſtead of poor oxen, &c. &c. neceſſity has occaſioned horſes either to be reared or purchaſed; conſequently, horſe corn ſown or planted inſtead of wheat, which otherwiſe for many reaſons would not have been preferred.

By ſuch manœuvres, the farms of rich lands, and the farms of poorer lands, inſtead of exhibiting to

travellers or dealers, oxen, ſteers, and heifers, and full aged ſheep for beſt proviſions; or young growing ſheep, or producing good cheeſe, have produced little of any ſort of commodity, other than veal and mutton. The former affording trifling income to the ſtate, little nutriment to man in its beſt ſtate; more eſpecially as it is often killed too young.

Forty years ago only, when turnpike roads were not ſo general as at preſent, thoſe when frequented were chiefly narrow and bad.

The nobility who kept coaches were ſeldom ſeen therein, except on or about their own territories; or in direct roads for the metropolis.

Merchants, &c. if ſeen in carriages, it was near their reſidences; or on roads leading to places of faſhionable reſort for health or pleaſure, drawn by heavy horſes.

Cattle and wheat, the chief ſources of trade and commerce, twine and cheeſe, being at time plentiful, means were found, and large fortunes accumulated here and there: thus carriages became more numerous, which occaſioned a ſpirit for extending and improving the roads, in moſt parts neighbouring perſons ſharing in the expences thereof, and advantages.

Expedition followed, by the uſe of more horſes, the rearing of which paid them well here, or there, and ſerved to promote trade, and to enlarge the income of the revenue.

Places formerly deemed obſcurely ſituated, became more in the way of travellers, dealers, &c. &c.

inſomuch, that in vaſt tracts, where, perhaps one peaſant had been the only mortal ſeen in one day, numerous dealers, &c. have daily paſſed, whereby adjacent lands improved in their value, inaſmuch many inſtances have permitted of their having been more than doubled.

Such plenty has heretofore abounded, that exportation was found neceſſary to diſpoſe of the crops raiſed on the lands already incloſed, much of which, ere turnpike roads were improved, and become more general; ere horſes were bred in ſuch numbers; lay uncultivated, good roads; and the more than uſual breeding of horſes brought in diſpatch & elegance followed, making good for trade in divers cities, and places; whilſt travelling introduced money into remote towns, and villages, and occaſioned in divers counties aſtoniſhing broad plats of oats, beans, and other grain to appear on newly cultured lands; their value increaſed of courſe, but unhappily richer acres cultured perhaps ſeveral centuries prior thereto, in more fertile parts, which ought to have continued to us ſupplies as of old, in order to have confirmed the advantages reaſonably expected from ſuch increaſe of culture and extenſion of trade, &c. kept not pace, but contrariwiſe, inſtead of aiding by means of good roads, furniſhing at markets, increaſe of ſupplies, or even bare ſufficiencies of grain, or proper and uſual numbers of young and full grown ſtock; alſo cheeſe and butter, &c. &c. have ſhewn a falling off: thereby occaſioning roads, and horſes to be condemned as injurious to ſociety: whereas the extenſion and improvements of turnpike roads, the more than here-

tofore breeding of horſes appear to me great proofs of national proſperity—if ſuch were not proper to be ſtiled bleſſings.

Perſons whoſe wiſdom prompted them to extend and improve turnpike roads, and promote the breed of horſes for extenſion of trade, (which has been the reſult thereof) may conceive the high pitch this nation would have arrived at, provided the evil practices herein explained, had not undermined ſo good a work.

Thoſe who departed this life, cannot have the happineſs of becoming ſpectators of the good, or public advantages they foreſaw were likely to attend their endeavours; but thoſe exiſting, who ſtill may incline to improve the country internally, may find ſucceſs. Moreover, may depend ſafely, by ſuch improvement, great welfare is ſtill in ſtore for England, and its inhabitants; provided things are rightly managed.

It is to be underſtood, that horſes are not for the moſt part bred on the beſt lands.

Inferior horſes were the inhabiters of moors, commons, foreſts, waſtes, and pooreſt paſtures in England and Wales, until fit for uſe.

Heavy horſes, and thoſe of ſuperior value, inhabited better lands; and although one cow the leſs has not been kept, intirely owing to the breeding of horſes, whole counties can boaſt of ten times the riches obtained by ſuch meaſures. Rich paſtures, allotted by the Creator of all things, for grazing oxen, cows, heifers, and ſheep, here or there, have not been at all ſince my time, neither are ſuch now over-run with horſes. Such paſtures are to be

found without horſes rearing; without ſufficient numbers of cows, oxen, ſteers, heifers, or ſheep thereon. The acres that were incloſed forty years ago, produced plenty for home conſumption, and for exportation likewiſe, and are adequate thereto (if properly cultured) without incloſing either foreſts, chaſes, parks, moors, or commons; and to a certainty (by the bleſſing of God) would produce cattle, ſwine, cheeſe, butter, and grain; and alſo horſes ſufficient to promote trade, commerce, wealth and ſplendour. Moreover, introduce with the next century (ſo we ſeek it) happineſs beyond example.

Respecting advanced Rents.

Theſe have taken place, chiefly upon ſmall eſtates, dairies, &c.

Dearneſs of produces, and improvements agricultural, have occaſioned it; chiefly the former.

Perſons poſſeſſed of landed property, as above ten thouſand pounds a year, though dearneſs crept on, have not generally ſtudied great advances on lands, in the manner like perſons of ſmaller properties; yet there are to be found thoſe whoſe landed properties thirty years ago, amounted to ten thouſand pounds a year only, who at this time enjoy perhaps an advance of two thouſand pounds. If ſuch advances are found on farms far in inland counties, thin in nature, ſuch became advanced chiefly on account of improvement for raiſing grain, gained by advantages afforded by good roads: but Smithfield ſeldom ſhewed, or bore the weight of an hoof from ſuch farms.

The number of perſons enjoying upwards of ten thouſand pounds a year landed property, are few; of that few, to this hour, there are perſons to be found, who have not advanced rents during the laſt thirty years.

There are perſons to be found, who have gained great advances by conſolidating farms, to ſave expences of repairs: nay, that have ſuffered houſes, ſtabling, barns, cottages, &c. &c. to be deſtroyed, to make their incomes better for a while: but ſeeing, that conſolidating of farms has not been the origin of ſcarcity and dearneſs, and a remedy thereof is attainable, ſmall farms may again be in proper culture, whereby the iſſue of thoſe who have conſolidated, may hereafter feel more inconveniencies than compenſating for the aid ſuch deſtructive meaſures has afforded towards dearneſs, when called upon to erect new.

Perſons of five hundred pounds a year, and leſs, are very numerous; ſuch by dearneſs unexampled, prevailing in their time, have been obliged to advance rents: many taking up dealings in grain, cattle, &c. &c. to increaſe their incomes, ſufficiently to defray neceſſary expenditures, who, by inexperience in the value of the articles dealt for, have greatly contributed to dearneſs: this has happened chiefly in grazing counties, much incloſed, and moſtly in ſmall farms, lets, or bargains, from whence (the bulk of fattened ſtock came in to market uſes) ſmall farms being chiefly compoſed of lands moſt fertile.

Owing to infringement, and to practices unfair, as one taking away the bread of another, owing to in-

experience in the true value of living ſtock, grain, &c. &c. can it be fairly ſaid that advantages too great has not been the lot of many ſuch dealers? Can any mortal controvert ſuch having been injurious, or even advance with truth, that (as unawares) conſumers pay not for all? ſurely no one would be ſo bold.

But ſeeing, that conſumers do pay for all, how many are to be found, as curates, &c. with large families, ſubſiſting at this dear time, upon leſs than one hundred pounds per annum income. Perhaps, allowed not to traffick; to meaſure their ſufferings I preſume not—let it ſuffice, if at thirteen pounds each, or there about, ſix poor oxen were bought in at late year, 1795, and after working until midſummer 1796 had paſſed away, they yielded twenty guineas each: were not ſuch advantage out of reaſon, whilſt bare ſubſiſtences are the lot of fellow creatures, who are likely to labour under ſeverer calamities, owing to the covetous diſpoſition of this or that neighbour.

The meat of bullocks fattened in the courſe of the laſt year, that coſt in upon the average, twelve pounds only, has yielded ſix-pence per pound, much of it conſiderably more money.

What muſt be the end of thoſe, that this year coſt in, poor, on average, nearly half as much more money, perhaps of the ſame frame. Why, any how to come near the deſires of the avaricious, or to pay as deemed lawful and cuſtomary, the grazier and the butcher (fair dealers) the beef muſt ſell at prices beyond example, out of the reach of houſekeepers in

a little way, or of artificers, and perhaps, even the ſmell of the poor.

I mean not to aggravate, I wiſh not to heighten more than proper impending ſeverities. We pray to God that it may pleaſe him to ſend us the kindly fruits of the earth ſo as in due time we may enjoy them. By the word *we*, is meant I conceive all mankind.

Such has been divinely given, but owing to practices at numerous farms as I have herein ſtated, ſuch comforts have not, are not by all mankind enjoyed.

Ye who are in power, in the name of Chriſtian charity think of this—attend to the next calving ſeaſon, ere it be too late to ward off as much as poſſible the miſeries otherwiſe to be expected.

Before the year 1780 had arrived, the farms occupied by butchers in Glouceſterſhire and Somerſetſhire were numerous, but not ſo numerous as at 1795. Nevertheleſs at the former period, that practice having ſpread as from farm to farm, through a vaſt extent of country to pariſhes, where prior to that period the whole buſineſs on farms were carried on in the good old way; employing all hands, men, women, and children, planting, weeding, &c. &c. producing plenty for every body's comfort and happineſs: immediately after a butcher made a footing by getting into perhaps one of its principal farms, the whole ſyſtem of culture in ſuch pariſh or pariſhes, and the face of things changed: example run, and ſhewed itſelf ſpeedily at almoſt every farm around. The reſult which has enſued, has fallen in as follow:

For ſeveral ſeaſons paſt, as at this time, ride whither you may, the roads leading to fairs, or markets, are thinly lined with cattle, buyers have the proſpect of few chances only, for laying out their money; conſequently butchers of all deſcriptions hurry thither to catch up the few fat goods expoſed for ſale, which hurry being obſerved by ſellers, a higher price is required, and neceſſity occaſions compliance, eſpecially by that butcher who has little or no ſtock by him (farming not) whilſt conſumers make up the return.

The ſame has been a prevailing calamity amongſt regular graziers, one and all hurrying here and there, to fairs and markets to pick up lean ſtock, diſcovering their wants thereby to ſellers, who knowing the reality of growing ſcarcity for years paſt, took advantage (as natural) and in like manner gained exorbitant prices, not knowing where to ſtop at, ſeeing ſuch chances.

Surely the cauſe of all this, one would wiſh to extirpate from amongſt us.

Reſpecting the reality of ſuch hurrying chances, and of ſcarcity prevailing, to avoid being thought ſelf-opinionated, I here inſert the opinion of another perſon, which appeared in a public newſpaper, May 14, 1795, viz. " Smithfield affords a very ſcanty ſupply of good meat; mutton of any age is hardly to be procured, and good beef is nearly as ſcarce, ſome precaution ſhould be taken againſt the alarming diminution of our ſtock; for the high prices tempt the graziers to force every thing to market a year before its regular courſe, and even the

lambs, uſually ſtocked for wethers, or for the flock, are now too generally ſwept off, to ſupply the preſſing demands of the moment. The counties of Devon and Somerſet are nearly ſtript of their old ſtock of beaſts, by this premature ſlaughtering, and can only replace them by green ſteers, all this muſt be ſeverely felt hereafter."

The foregoing paragraph, which toucheth not the cauſe of the calamity, has ſo much truth in it, that I determined to afford it room for inſertion in this book.

In 1795 it was obſerved, that " the poor in the neighbourhood of Calne, were deprived of ſuch beef with which they were formerly comfortably ſupplied, even old cow beef; for ſuch then was bought up, and driven here and there."

Again, " cattle were killed too young, or before half fattened."

Theſe remarks were as drawing nigh to the point; and, by their nature, ſhew that great pains had been beſtowed in endeavouring to get at the true cauſe, not only of the ſufferings of neighbouring poor, but of all perſons who have their bread to get by their labour.

About the ſame time it was obſerved, that " the produce of dairies had not failed."

Again, that " ſcarcity did not ariſe from the ſmallneſs of the crops, but from an increaſed conſumption; meat as well as corn was ſcarce, which aroſe from a ſcarcity of food for all animals."

By others it was obſerved, " that the winter was ſevere, and the ſpring late, conſequently cattle were brought to market lean, and more of them deſtroyed, which accounted for the price of meat at preſent; and that the war, no doubt, contributed to the ſcarcity."

Now ſuch information as the foregoing, however deeply ſought, has left room for other, and perhaps better information, gained by experience, and which hereafter the public may allow, more to the purpoſe.

It is true that old cows, in the neighbourhood of Calne, have been bought up and driven here and there, becauſe a ſufficient number of fat oxen, ſteers, or heifers, for many years paſt, have not, nor could be found; neither are ſuch to be found in ſufficient numbers now, that time has advanced to 1797, in that part of Wiltſhire, like as at aforetime.

The few cattle killed have been, and now are, generally killed too young, before half fattened. And why? Becauſe cattle are in reality ſcarce. I have herein ſhewn that the draining off of young calves from that neighbourhood, for ſo long a ſucceſſion or term as thirty-ſix years, has occaſioned cattle to be killed there too young, and before half fattened.

Admitting from ſix to eight pounds has been given for a fattened calf,—who would not give up the practice of ſuckling for the good of their country?

I have obſerved that formerly, as thirty years ago, the lean bullocks which were expoſed for ſale at Landſdown fair—on the 10th of Auguſt yearly—were of divers breeds, viz. Glouceſters, Wiltſhires, Somerſets, Welch and Devonſhires, either part contributing nearly alike to make up a proper ſupply for a fair-day.

Of Glouceſters and Wilts, heifers and oxen were the chief ſorts which made up their part; of Somerſets, chiefly poor oxen and ſteers with a few heifers; of Devons, moſtly oxen and ſteers. Of either county breed, the graziers bought poor oxen, at per yoke, from nine or ten guineas to twelve guineas, which latter was a top price and ſeldom found; ſteers and heifers proportionately cheap; which moderate purchaſing of poor ſtock, anſwered to the prices I have ſtated fattened bullocks were purchaſed for at that time.

Many graziers of weſt and north-weſt Wiltſhire, uſed to depend on Landſdown fair for ſupplies of ſuch poor bullocks, as were true Somerſets, or true Glouceſters, preferring Somerſets while they were to be got, to eat the crops of after-graſs, known, according to the ſeaſon, to be in that vale aſtoniſhingly heavy.

The chief of ſuch oxen, when fattened, went to Smithfield, or ſupplied the markets in the rout thither, and occaſionally the navy ſlaughter-houſes; whilſt old cows, and good young heifers, ſupplied at home, at the cheap rates I have ſtated good pieces of beef were purchaſed at by the commonalty.

As the buſineſs of ſuckling of calves low down in Glouceſterſhire, and in Somerſetſhire, increaſed, to ſupply Briſtol and Bath markets, and their vicinities likewiſe, with veal, the increaſing demand, and draining off of veal, as before deſcribed, for the London markets, the vaſt draining off of young calves for ſuckling, occaſioned a decreaſe in appearance of number of home breeds of bullocks, yearly advances, more or leſs in prices, of courſe took place; whilſt Wales and Devonſhire, producing more and more of their breeds, (very much affecting the markets there) by draining more and more bullocks therefrom. At length, in 1794 and 1795, few yokes of any county oxen, or ſteers, other than Devons; or any number of heifers, other than Welch ones, were to be found on the Hill.

The produce at Landſdown fair in 1796, I own was of an extraordinary nature, which, with other occurrences that have tranſpired during the time of the delay of this publication, I inſert, ſeeing it much concerns the public to have a juſt account thereof.

At Landſdown fair, in 1796, the ſhow of poor oxen were nearly all Devons; there were alſo a few Welch ſteers, cows, and heifers, but of true Somerſets, Glouceſters, or Wiltſhire bred poor oxen, or heifers—workers—ten yokes were not to be found on the hill.

Were I to ſay ten head of native bred poor oxen, ſteers, or heifers, of the aforeſaid three counties, were

on the hill for ſale, I verily believe it would be to depart from truth; which was an afflicting ſight, as were the prices diſtreſſing to hear.—Poor Devonſhire oxen yielding thirty ſix and to nearly forty pounds, per yoke, more or leſs.

The ſhew of Devons muſt have drained that county, ſo much as to preſage an unuſual dearneſs of meat there; but ſuch were a providential good ſupply, in a country where ſcarcely any native poor beaſts were remaining, of courſe could not be produced, for the dealers accuſtomed to come there to purchaſe poor ſtock—Does not ſo ſeaſonable a ſupply of Devons, prove the uſefulneſs of thoſe dealers commonly called jobbers.

To me, accuſtomed heretofore to ſee Somerſet, Glouceſter, and Wiltſhire bullocks, make up nearly equal parts on fair days, the appearance this day was a melancholy one: the caſe had not been ſo, had not ſuckling of calves been ſo much the rage; or were all the farms in the hands of perſons who are regular farmers, not following butchering.

If Devonſhire people delight in their native breed of oxen, why let them go on, and try ſtill to improve them if they can; I would not preſume to diſturb them with argument thereon, but I cannot avoid recommending to the farming inhabitants of Somerſet, Glouceſter, and Wiltſhire, for their own welfare, for the welfare of thoſe of futurity, but above all for the good of

their country at this time, to endeavour to try to fill their own counties once more with original breeds: ſuch would prove larger, better, and more profitable. However, it was a happy circumſtance, as things ſtood in 1796, that Devons were found, or what would have become of us.

It was obſerved, "that the productions of dairies had not failed." Now be it underſtood, that for a certainty there are to be found numerous reputed beſt dairy farms, where formerly cheeſe was occaſionally found in great abundance, as ſeveral tons weight yearly, where of late, as ten years laſt paſt, not one cheeſe has been produced for ſale.

This remark being matter of fact, may ſerve to ſhew that the productions of dairies have failed to an alarming degree.

It is certain that leſs of that uſeful article has been lately made than formerly; and that the quantity which has been conſumed was vended at enormous prices, affecting, more than any other, the lower claſſes of the people.

Again, reſpecting "ſcarcity doth not ariſe from the ſmallneſs of the crop." I would ſay, crops, particularly of wheat, have decreaſed, more or leſs, theſe thirty-ſix years.

Again, reſpecting "that meat as well as corn was ſcarce, which aroſe from a ſcarcity of food for all animals." I would ſay, cattle are ſcarce in reality, more ſo than corn, but the ſcarcity thereof has not ariſen from a ſcarcity of food for all animals.

Becauſe, were the food only ſcarce, cattle for that very reaſon would have been driven here or there, and have appeared more plenty at fairs and markets, if but in a lean ſtate; but, alas! to experienced perſons, it is too well known, that cattle and ſwine are in reality very ſcarce indeed.

Opinions amongſt ſerious dealers at Smithfield are nearly unanimous. The cry for years paſt has been, and now is, viz. "More cattle and ſwine are needful, or the prices cannot abate ſufficiently;" it would ſurely be better for a general idea to prevail, of the certainty of a return to moderation.

It was obſerved that "the winter was ſevere, and the ſpring late, conſequently cattle were brought to market lean and more of them deſtroyed, which accounted for the price of meat."

The ſeverity of the winter, 1794-5, was great; but it was not altogether on that account that bullocks came to market ſo few in number, or ſo lean.

Either calamity, as too few, or leanneſs, was owing to bullocks having been becoming ſcarce in England for many years preceding that froſt, intirely owing to country butchers farming, ſuckling, &c. &c. and at length found ſcarce in reality, which affected the price of meat.

Furthermore, fattening bullocks, are known for the moſt part to be houſed in winter, previous to Chriſtmas, or to froſts ſetting in, before which ſeaſon, ſuch would have been ſeen ſomewhere or

other, eating graſs upon the face of the earth, if in being. Therefore were cattle not ſcarce, fat oxen, ſteers, cows, or heifers, and ſheep, would doubtleſs have made their way to Smithfield, at one time or other, notwithſtanding froſt or ſnow, either in ſpring or ſummer months, in ſufficient numbers, full of fat; but not coming proves the diſaſter of ſcarceneſs.

The inhabitants of Middleſex have experienced great ſeverities, owing to ſeaſons of deep ſnow, that being the worſt impediment known by drovers, who know but of few other accidents or impediments.

But cattle, on their way thither, have been ſo ſtopped, and a few ſhort markets have been the reſult, even in times of plenty. This affected graziers and dealers alike, who afterwards were ſure, and experienced overflowing markets by the delay, but ſuch not being to be found for Smithfield, fat or lean, in numbers ſufficient, month after month, or not at all, accounts for the high prices paid for beef, &c. &c. in Middleſex.

Cattle from February until Auguſt ſucceſſively for at leaſt fifteen years laſt paſt, have come to Smithfield, not only in leſs numbers, but thin of fleſh and fat, in a fitter ſtate for grazing than for killing.

Saleſmen, butchers, tallow-chandlers, one and all, may ſafely aſcertain the ſame, knowing that it has been the unhappy caſe, which ſurely no perſon can or will deny, in their moments of reaſon.

It has been often ſaid, " That the war had—no doubt—contributed to the ſcarcity." Were I to ſay otherwiſe it would be a falſhood: inn-keepers, nor public-houſe keepers, grumbled not as of late, when formerly called upon to entertain ſoldiers billeted, and when good family pieces of beef, of capital oxen, &c. were bought at two-pence per pound; cheeſe, bacon, and other articles of proviſions, equally cheap. Neither did ſoldiers complain of inſufficiencies, or of being fed with bad food.

Complaints were ſeldom heard by either party, but of late both parties have complained;—the one on account of the ſcarcity of good and proper food, which has obliged the other to cook up meſſes for ſoldiers, of ſorts that was formerly deemed more proper to be thrown to ravenous brute animals.

In this caſe, plenty of cattle, ſwine, and cheeſe, cannot be deemed other than deſirable.

I conceive that no houſe-keeper would complain, or grudge paying taxes, neceſſarily collected to protect their little all, provided proviſions, candles, and ſoap, alſo the article of bread, were one and all to be bought at moderate prices.

Yet houſe and ſhop-keepers grievouſly oppreſſed, who would ſcorn to complain unjuſtly, are not ſilent, and complaints are heard of courſe.

Suppoſing, at the London markets, all ſorts of meat joints, parts could be bought, as average-

ly, at four-pence halfpenny, or five-pence per pound; cheeſe, and other articles proportionably reaſonable. And at country markets accordingly (ſituation conſidered, which uſed to admit of a difference of at leaſt one penny per pound, road expences coming high) a ſaving would be found in moſt families in the kingdom, to an amount that would defray all taxes hitherto levied, leaving a ſurplus for other neceſſaries.

For inſtance, a family whom of late, during the time of ſcarcity and dearneſs, made twelve ſhillings per week anſwer for meat, cheeſe, and butter, provided the ſame quantum could be procured for eight ſhillings per week, a ſaving of ten pounds eight ſhillings would be found in one year; ſuch ſmall family probably might not have two pounds taxes to pay. Great families, as of the nobility, gentry, merchants, innkeepers, boarding and other houſekeepers, where out-goings in the moſt frugal way for meat and cheeſe have exceeded twenty guineas per week: but at that quota, calculating one-fourth as took off at market only, a ſaving at the cloſe of one year, would be found amounting to two hundred ſeventy and three pounds. In ſmaller families, where leſs is conſumed, ſums in proportion of courſe might be ſaved.

But how is this to be found, ſeeing the prices demanded and given for poor ſtock, are out of reaſon.—I conceive abominable to our heavenly Giver.

On account of my fellow-creatures, I grieve, having experienced good appearances, and other, as paſt ſprings, or autumns have ſhewn; alſo having

obſerved the bountifulneſs of Providence counteracted, and cut off: alſo endeavours of charitable perſons defeated, which circumſtances to me are extraordinary lamentable, well knowing what muſt be the reſult, where little money only can be boaſted of. Moreover, knowing that one other matter of fact prevaileth: viz. hard-hearted perſons make ſuch a number of ſtock do. That number pay ſo much money, which was not the caſe in times of plenty, or before country butchers became ſo numerouſly farmers, ſucklers, &c. &c. &c.

When ſuch lean ſtock are vended as fattened, the faireſt dealing graziers, will of courſe ſay to butchers, &c. &c. thoſe beaſts (whether oxen, ſteers, heifers, cows, or ſheep) were bought in as lean, or fleſhy at dear prices, I rent my lands ſo or ſo, therefore muſt ſell them for ſo much money to make a return ſufficient to pay rents, taxes, and for neceſſary expenditures which attend grazing; alſo for profits.

Such purchaſers reduced to the extremity of ſcarceneſs, having no alternative, comply, which calamity ever falls moſt heavy upon ſuch conſumers, as artificers, dwellers in cities and towns, amongſt whom poor perſons in reality are to be found, that perhaps moſt merit contributions.

In pariſhes, where after harveſt, about twenty-five years ago, perſons had been accuſtomed to count fourteen or upwards to twenty wheat mows, varying as to ſize, in the ſmall ſpace of ten years ſucceeding, preſented eight only; and as conſiderable, or ſmall farms, or bargains became occupied and managed by farming butchers, (ſo called, al-

though chiefly ſucklers) wheat mows, or ſtacks kept pace, and diminiſhed in ſhew until at length in the year 1793, and 1794, many villages ſhewed leſs than four wheat mows, whereby dearneſs was fairly to be expected—it came on with a vengeance.

Very ſoon after wheat ſowing 1794, it was publiſhed, that a broader piece of wheat was up than recollected. I own, that aboutthe time of Lammas-day, 1795, the corn by the goodneſs of the ſeaſon looked well upon the lands, when perſons ventured to pronounce, that there never was a more plentiful year, or better crops of corn.

To perſons inexperienced, no doubt, it ſeemed ſo; Lent corn proved abundant indeed, but experienced men, who knew the country well, knew alſo the crop of wheat would prove ſhort—ſadly deficient—(and why) it was not from lightneſs in the ear of wheat: on the contrary, the ears were generally heavy as uſual, or at beſt known, and the grain good. The real fact is this: by far leſs wheat was ſown year after year for thirty-ſix years ſucceſſively, but more than of late uſual—leſs in the year 1794.

Not to reſt on my own remarks, on this ſcore either, I inſert a remark which was publiſhed previous to the harveſt of 1795, viz.

" I am apprehenſive from the beſt enquiries, and obſervations in my power, that the crop of wheat collectively taken, will not amount to what is called by farmers a medium crop." Again, " it is well known, and has been aſcertained, that with the exception of barley only, this country, which, in former times produced more grain than was neceſſary

for its inhabitants, has during the laſt twenty-five years been under the neceſſity of depending on the produce of foreign countries for a part of its ſupply."

The foregoing remark was certainly the reſult of ſtrict enquiry, and obſervation—was a remark, founded on the ſolid baſis of truth; was, no doubt, ſought amongſt the truly experienced. I hope thoſe who made ſuch cloſe remarks will hereby be convinced, that ſcarcity of cattle, ſwine, their productions, and the ſcarcity of wheat, originated in the practice of country butchers farming, ſuckling, and grazing whilſt carrying on butchering. Moreover by the ſad effect of example at other farms: provided my remarks ſatisfy thoſe in power, the public, no doubt, will ſoon find good effect from it.

It was ſaid, that the laſt crop failed one-third leſs of thoſe crops immediately preceding: it were better to have ſaid, that every year had produced deficiency in the crops of wheat for the thirty-ſix years laſt paſt.

Were it not prudent to remove the practice of country butchers farming, ſuckling, &c. which has occaſioned ſuch falling off of raiſing grain, eſpecially of wheat, in order to prevent impending ſeverities, to be feared more weighty than thoſe laboured under in 1795, if not on account of wheat, are likely on account of meat.

The public can now judge of what effect imports of grain are towards reducing the prices of meat; although ſought in wiſdom, ſuch are uncertain.

Shipping, which bring in wheat and rice from far, bring not into this land, oxen, ſteers, heifers, calves, ſheep, or lambs, from ſuch diſtant countries; neither are ſuch given us like rain from heaven, infinitely good. God giveth rain, whereby graſs ſpringeth up for cattle to eat, and thereby becomes fit for the uſes of mankind; it is well known by weak mortals of maturity, that cows produce oxen for beſt beef, cows produce milk for cheeſe, for cream, for butter, and for whey; whereby pigs are known beſt to get on at the farm-yard, or in the ſtye; but cows, and their produces are become ſcarce, and dear, by the endeavours of covetous unfeeling men.

It has been ſaid, that thirty buſhels of wheat, per acre, is about the average of the produce of the kingdom.

If one acre of land, taking the average of England, produces thirty buſhels of wheat, twenty thouſand acres would afford ſix hundred thouſand buſhels.

Such a ſupply to come in from like as unexpected acres, may, doubtleſs appear an object of conſeqence, and realized, would of courſe be deemed uſeful: furthermore, that ſuch ought not to be withheld from the public.

If ſuch be found hereafter in three counties, what may not be expected from reform and better management throughout the realm, ſeeing my ſtatement may be half within the real number of acres laid down in that circle—thirteen hundred acres being ſo laid down in two pariſhes only. Ought acres

at this time to lie unploughed, in a manner uſeleſs, which if properly cultured, would, to an almoſt certainty, produce greater crops, being of the beſt arable lands? Much of the wheat raiſed in the laſt twenty years, has been on out-fields, and hill country poor thin lands: it is admitted that the grand dependence of Britons for proviſions, and the chief of our commerce is home plenty of cattle, and home grown grain; for the ſure means, and in order to obtain plenty of grain, breeding, weaning, and rearing of cattle muſt be adopted; in which caſe, cheeſe, butter, ſwine and poultry would ſoon follow.

If breeding for rearing oxen become generally prevalent throughout the kingdom, the growth of wheat ſpeedily would follow of courſe, becauſe ſteers ere two years old, would be worked to earn their food, where of late no grain has grown. I conceive, that it muſt be allowed to a certainty, that bounties given for imports of wheat is not encouraging our own farmers to raiſe it. The high prices demanded for wheat in 1795, which certainly were reduced by imports in 1796, is ſufficient proof of the utility of then importing wheat: provided few farmers only turn their hand to breeding and rearing cattle, farming ſuckling butchers ſtill continuing to undermine and counteract ſuch endeavours, it would probably produce ills, ſuch as affording other farmers excuſes for aſking advances in prices for their corn. Moreover, keep the country, more or leſs, in appearance doubtful as to ſcarcity, and the community in a ſtate of ſuſpence.

If ſo, the moſt general ſyſtem poſſible of breeding, for rearing of cattle (particularly bullocks) ſeems beſt to be preferred; more ſolid than to depend on what government may find needful to offer for uncertain imports. Moreover, if rearing bullocks and ſtock be a ſyſtem that will with certainty create the raſing of wheat, it would of courſe prevent future out-cry of ſcarcity of that grain: an object which may merit, and be allowed ſpeedy conſideration of parliament.

Raiſing greater number of plats, or pieces of wheat would be the certain means of rearing more ſheep.

The acres of England remain, and are in number the ſame as of old; are without a doubt fully adequate to our wants. With me no doubt remaineth of their again producing (if properly cultured) ſufficient of neceſſary marketings to be purchaſed ſufficiently cheap to accommodate all parties, without leſſening the value of landed property.

The aforeſaid obſervations made by other perſons reſpecting cattle and grain, however charitably ſought, and for parliamentary information, indicate for certainty, that ſcarcity and dearneſs has been other than imaginary, and ſerve likewiſe (in great meaſure) to prove my remarks are founded in truth.

The CAUSE undiſcovered by them, the NEEDFUL, provided herein it be explained, I hope the ſame will be deemed proper to be publiſhed. Moreover, that I have not ſaid too much in the cauſe of Engliſhmen, who, at this juncture, with reſpect to meat, and other neceſſaries are unneceſſarily op-

preſſed. However, there remaineth for houſe-keepers, artificers, and the poor, conſolations; for they may know ſuch earthly ſufferings are not the reſult of their own evil practices: wherefore, they may be rewarded with heavenly bliſs. The covetous idolizer of ſordid gain is not exempt from the hand of Him, to whom account muſt be given hereafter.

The account which I have given of a regular farmer's produces, &c. &c. alſo of the produces, and practices of a farming butcher, which I have ſtated from experience, without the leaſt partiality, for public peruſal: although evils attending the latter, might have been ſpun out in facts many pages, I conceive is ſufficient to convince the reader, that the cauſe of the late ſcarcity of cattle and ſwine, the dearneſs of beef, veal, mutton, lamb, bacon, pork, cheeſe and butter; alſo tallow candles, ſoap, &c. or of bread, deemed the ſtaff of life, was not occaſioned by any cauſe originating in, or near to the metropolis, and to bring into one and the ſame way of thinking, all parties to abide by the following declarations as a rock of truth: viz. Butchers by farming, grazing, ſuckling of calves and lambs, butchering at ſhops and ſhambles, at one and the ſame time; ſelling living cattle, violating thereby well meant old eſtabliſhed laws; rearing neither bullocks, ſheep, ſwine, nor uſual ſupplies of poultry, or by not making cheeſe, uſual ſupplies of butter, &c. nor producing uſual ſupplies of grain, although occupying numerous of the beſt dairy, and other large and ſmall farms in divers counties of England.

By unſeaſonably deſtroying young ſtock, by occaſioning the like practices at other farms, the reſult of error, and of example, have been the chief (if not ſole) cauſe of creating that ſcarcity and dearneſs, which has produced miſeries for length of time unknown of old; but ſurely juſtly complained of. Furthermore, of being the ſource of monopoly of farms, monopoly in retail way, of jobbing cattle, ſwine, cheeſe, and grain, together with their whole train of attendant bad conſequences.

I publiſh not theſe my remarks to create, even doubts, or diſputings, but to manifeſt to all underſtandings, by an honeſt plain ſtory, how, and where the late, and ſtill prevailing calamities originated, which have progreſſively gained ground upon the community, who, at length may judge for themſelves, may reſt ſafely on the idea of certain remedy being practicable, if ſought properly, which purſuit cannot fail to appeaſe the diſquieted.

Provided farming butchers, other graziers, had not ſtept out of the bounds of reaſon in dealing, I had never compiled it: but knowing there are butchers to be found, who, not loſt to all ſenſe of humanity and brotherly love, have feelings, (having not other dependence for livelihoods than butchering, yet content therewith) I could not avoid it, for ſuch merit to partake of happineſs, ſuch ſweets of life as may ariſe from profits fairly gained, in a truly laborious calling.

To amend the evil, farms already incloſed, need only to be properly cultured, *i. e.* by perſons as regular farmers, ſufficient of ſtock and grain would be the certain reſult of that ſimple remedy, and

ſpeedily. On the contrary, whilſt country butchers graze, ſuckle, farm, ſell living cattle and meat at market, or elſewhere, the good expected to be derived from partial benefits cannot fail to be defeated. Seemingly good meaſures undertaken, although contrary to the wiſhes, or wiſdom of the purſuers, muſt be found, as producing undeſirable effects, inſtead of the chief relief, that is wanting by the community at large: viz. for meat, cheeſe, butter, bread, tallow candles and ſoap, to be bought at moderate prices.

Would perſons in future time, be able to account certainly how things were at thoſe farms, when otherwiſe occupied than by butchers? To begin to notice the management and produces of ſuch farms as at preſent, were to begin with the preſent ſcarcity: whereas, my aſſertions, ſerve to ſhew my knowledge is founded in reſearches and experience, having ſeen ſuch farms in their former ſtate of culture; being in the habit of dealing for certain produces at numerous farms, before the preſent occupiers enjoyed them: and proves what was produced at aforetime inconteſtibly.

The unploughed acres of lands, which were heretofore conſidered arable, at extenſive and ſmall farms, in the hands of farming butchers; thoſe alſo laid down to green ſward, by removed regular farmers, obligated thereto; thoſe alſo laid down by other farmers from example in the three weſt counties of Glouceſterſhire, Somerſetſhire, and Wiltſhire; either, as a walk for the ſtock of the one, or lying (as it were) idle in the hands of the other; on taking a proper view, or

actual ſurvey thereof, would perhaps be found to amount to many thouſands more than Twenty, beſt fields, which at aforetime were frequently ſeen to produce abundant crops of wheat, or other grain, but of late produced little or none: wherefore, the calamity of ſcarcity of the grain wheat, may not be much wondered at, eſpecially if we conſider, that thouſands of acres of out-lands, ſuch as downs, hills, commons, &c. have been fenced in for culture, within the term of thirty-ſix years paſt. Light produces were only to be expected from poor acres, ſo broken up. It is well known amongſt agriculturiſts, poor lands, far diſtant from the farm-yard, badly ſituated to be manured, in the ſpace of fourteen years, are not likely to make more than three profitable returns by wheat, but too frequent leſs than to pay for ſeed, and expences. Moreover, to try often other grain, were ſtill to purſue more fruitleſs meaſures. My hope and aim is for both ſorts to be again brought into culture, at the diſcretion of regular farming perſons only.

Provided a farming butcher prefers farming to butchering—why not conform, and put aſide the apron and ſteel?

To the knife and ſteel, for too many years paſt, the plough has given way.

If butchering be preferred, why take farms for ſuckling, or culturing improperly, unſeaſonably to cut off the young ſtock? Why break in upon the fair dealer's bread, and diſturb the tranquility of millions of ſubjects, that merit it not at ſuch hands?

If butchers are in poſſeſſion of leaſes—why not give up eſtates to regular farming perſons, (who, no doubt, would gladly embrace the opportunity, and work ſuch farms properly, to produce utmoſt numbers of ſtock, and the neceſſary quantity of grain) or to the owners?

It is clear, that the mind of our moſt gracious Sovereign was diſturbed by the prevailing calamities of ſcarcity, and dearneſs, previous to October, 1795.

His Majeſty's moſt gracious ſpeech, as delivered to both Houſes of Parliament, 1794, abundantly proves His parental affection for the welfare of His people.

To ſtudy the comforts of labouring huſbandmen only, were not ſufficient, but partial, tending to an almoſt certainty, to load more heavily the mechanical claſs, from the maſter to the moſt inferior hand. It is that claſs of the community, ſuch as houſekeepers, with ſmall incomes, traders, working mechanics, that contribute towards taxes, who moſt want redreſs; dwellers in cities and towns, where are to be found ſcenes of needineſs moſt affecting, veiled perhaps for many reaſons by a pleaſant countenance.

It has been urged, that Miniſters ſhould ſtudy the private intereſt of the people, which important buſineſs cannot be better done, than by Miniſters adopting the true means for lowering the prices of human food, and the common neceſſaries of life, which I venture to declare from experience cannot be accompliſhed equally ſatisfactory by any earthly

means, other than that of preventing country butchers, whilſt in the habit of ſelling dead carcaſes or retailing of meat, uſing, or practiſing the arts of farming, grazing, and ſuckling at one, and the ſame time. Furthermore, preventing any butcher whatſoever, from ſelling fattened, or lean living cattle. By this means, ſimple, as it may ſeem, the country may be reſtored to its former appearances, diſcovering here and there, plenty of living animals, which alone can occaſion the markets likewiſe ſhewing plenty of proviſions.

To dictate to perſons how they ſhall ſell will not produce happy, or the deſired effect, all dealers, for their encouragement, ought to have fit places for ſale, in fair trades way. Times and chance ought to be thine and mine in the idea of every mortal.

In divers parts of the kingdom the autumn of 1795, being productive of aſtoniſhing paſtures of after-graſs, which is known to lift grazing bullocks forward more expeditiouſly than other food; which ſaid paſtures lying here and there, the graſs as it were waſting, it was publiſhed as follows:

"There are paſtures full of graſs, but cattle to eat it are ſcarcely found," which remark appeared to be the reſult of traverſing the fertile vallies of Oxfordſhire.

Again, near Saliſbury, it was ſpoken of as a great grievance: the multitude at that city, and the vicinity thereof, obſerving the paſtures lying nearly in the ſame ſtate, juſt complaints were heard; whereof it was publiſhed, "there were paſtures as of old, yet a leſs number of cows kept,

a leſs number of fat cattle came to market, and leſs poultry were reared, although graſs and provender were plenty.

I conceive that ſtronger proofs reſpecting ſcarcity, are unneceſſary to be herein inſerted; or that the dependance of dwellers in the Oxfordſhire rout, alſo in that by Saliſbury, towards, and on to Smithfield either way, were of old, and to the end of time muſt remain (as allotted by God himſelf) upon the more fertile counties of Glouceſter, Somerſet, the weſt and north-weſt parts of Wiltſhire, ſomewhat aſſiſted by Monmouthſhire, Herefordſhire, Wales, as northward; by Dorſet, and Devonſhire, weſtward, for the chief of their proviſions, ſuch as beef, mutton and cheeſe; alſo, for the articles of tallow candles and ſoap.

The loſs of ſmall flocks from ſmall fertile farms, may have deceived the inexperienced; who by perceiving at hill country ſheaf farms great flocks, could not reconcile to themſelves the growing ſcarcity of ſheep.

I conceive that the oldeſt perſons in England, if bleſt with a good memory, cannot recollect the land in a better ſtate of vegetation, or more promiſing for graſs, than at Midſummer 1796, yet all muſt own, for it is a truth, that graſs proved abundant on ſummer leaſes, and as emmoth. But who can call to mind lean ſtock, which ſhould eat thereof, equally ſcarce, or ſo dear, as this year, at all fairs and markets without exception.

Dealers poſſeſſed of feelings becoming men, ſhudder at the idea of ſcarcity and its effects; but farming butchers care not what prices are demanded for fattened or lean ſtock; for this reaſon, dearneſs every way ſerves their turn.

Regular graziers, or farmers, for lean ſtock pay alike dear, but have not the ſame advantages.

Conſumers of all deſcriptions are, in a manner, exempted from advantages ariſing, and to be expected from ſuch a ſeaſon; all perſons are alike compelled to pay extravagant prices for meat, almoſt inſupportable; but artificers and the poor, waſte—as it were—their little ſtock of money, whilſt buying their proper food and common neceſſaries.

I conceive that no one thing claims the conſideration of parliament, (whilſt in purſuit of good for the community at large) equal to the aforeſaid practices, and infringement upon the laws, and the fair trader.

To make, or to amend laws I leave to my ſuperiors. However, ſeeing that the aforeſaid ſtatute has not hitherto wrought reformation, it may be found neceſſary to make that ſtatute ſufficiently coercive as may to them ſeem beſt.

But provided parliament ſlight theſe my remarks—which God forbid—I muſt ſtick to my promiſe, and ſhew how the public may peaceably, though not ſo ſpeedily, remedy themſelves. In which caſe the inhabitants of Middleſex, will appear to be the longeſt ſufferers, worſt ſituated, and muſt wait for the remedy. They will diſ-

cover that they muſt become dependant on their diſtant fellow ſubjects uſing caution in certain dealings, thereby to work out the evil, for the benefit of themſelves, and of the whole of the community.

Firſt great land owners may notice, that by a perſeverance to compel their ſtewards, &c. who may have to let out their farms, and other land-owners who let their farms themſelves, would do wiſely to ſeek perſons unacquainted with butchering for renters, and tying down each tenant from uſing that calling; to keep in tillage arable acres, for corn, more or leſs, according to the ſize of the farm, which would work effectual remedy, but not a ſpeedy one.

A ſtrict attention and perſeverance to adopt generally ſuch a meaſure, would not reduce the value of lands, which, almoſt generally, by means of better road ways, for conveying various ſorts of manure to amend them; by certain improvements in agriculture, by trade, by commerce, and by the common courſe of things in England, are of greater value than formerly.

Moderate prices only for farming productions with good agriculture and proper œconomy, will afford profits ſufficient to pay higheſt rents in England, and adequate to the proper ſubſiſtence and happineſs of renters.

Secondly, magiſtrates have it in their power to diſpoſe of market ſtalls for retailing meat, ſo as to prevent a farming butcher intruding.

Magiſtrates, by ſo doing, would merit the thanks of all their fellow citizens. Magiſtrates would

probably hear the prayers of the poor and needy for their earthly and heavenly bliſs; for this means would to a certainty work an effectual remedy ſpeedily.

Thirdly, dwellers in all the diſtant counties of England, having an eye to the ſufferings of thoſe in Middleſex, muſt do the work for their their diſtant diſtreſſed fellow creatures in the following manner, viz. Rather than be deemed an abettor, or be thought as one aiding towards the infelicity of ſociety, they may avoid purchaſing meat of a farming butcher. The people of Middleſex cannot by ſuch means remedy the evil; it were beſt and muſt be done where it firſt formed. Be it waſhed away: be the ſtream ſtopped or turned at the fountain head.

What perſonage, nobleman, gentleman, or gentlewoman, who keep houſe, but would lend an hand in an eaſy work?

Were it not preferable to root out an evil of ſo great an enormity, rather than to live and remain in ſuſpence; now and then charitably giving donations, and yet after ſo doing find the needful undone. Not that I would preſume to reſtrain the hand from giving at pleaſure—God forbid—but to aſſiſt herein would be to ſet on foot univerſal benevolence, and comfort: as feeding the hungry, however wretchedly, obſcurely, or remotely ſituated.

Such meaſures perſevered in by the public would work an effectual remedy. It is but natural to conceive that all perſons who keep

houſe, being more or leſs intereſted, will carefully attend to ſo ſalutary a means for that purpoſe.

Dwellers in the counties of Glouceſter, Somerſet, and Wilts, by firſt ſetting an example, would merit, and doubtleſs receive the thanks of thouſands of artificers and poor perſons, not only of Middleſex, whoſe diſtreſſes and ſufferings, occaſioned by the ſcarcity and dearneſs of human food and common neceſſaries, are ſurely worthy of a thought.

Further meaſures, which may help to bring about the deſired end, I conceive I ought to ſtate.

The publiſhing of this book having been unavoidably delayed, I am under the neceſſity of altering the time, but not the mode for certain reſtrictions, which if attended to may be found of uſe, and will not fail to produce ſupplies of food at the metropolis.

Whilſt the remedy is working, I would recommend, viz. that immediately, and until the thirty-firſt day of Auguſt, 1797, every fifth female calf be prohibited to be killed for veal; and from Auguſt 1797, until February 1798, every third calf, male or female, be prohibited to be killed for veal: the ſame to hold good not leſs than ſix years.

That no yearling ſuckling, commonly called boſs; be permitted to be killed; nor any ſwine, be permitted to be killed during the dog days, or months of June, July, and Auguſt, for ever—ten miles around

London only excepted.—The killing of pigs was formerly prohibited during the hot months, within the laſt half century; which good old cuſtom or law, put again in force, would prevent great waſte, and probably infectious ſickneſs.

By theſe means, the ſmall ſpace of ſix years would abundantly, and well ſtock England with cattle, ſwine, and cheeſe.

Respecting jobbing of Cheese.

Jobbing may have evil tendencies; but far diſtant cheeſe-makers at remote farms, ill ſituated for carriage, found heretofore and of late, jobbers uſeful to take off that article. Jobbers have been of great uſe to the inhabitants of London, and other places, by producing them cheeſe, which otherwiſe would not have appeared ſo ſoon at market.

The inhabitants of Middleſex, even in times of plenty, would often be greatly diſtreſſed for many articles, were jobbing entirely put a ſtop to. But particularly fat beaſts, as oxen, &c. ſheep, and cheeſe, much caution at this juncture is neceſſary on that ſcore.

Try to reſtore plenty of cattle.

Such, if jobbing be not prevented except in certain caſes, would ſpeedily be ſeen at markets, a ſight which conſtraint would in a great meaſure fruſtrate.

Partial meaſures, or any thing other than fair open plenty, cannot produce full markets eſpecially in Middleſex.

Without full markets the prices of food will not lower, not even to reaſonableneſs; wherefore it were beſt that rearing ſtock ſhould become more general than at preſent, eſpecially in the fertile weſt counties before mentioned, or dearneſs cannot fail to continue: May it not too ſoon reduce Britons to the deſcriptions, only of rich and poor?

Surely then to eradicate the diſaſters of ſcarcity and dearneſs, for plenty and moderate cheapneſs, is moſt deſirable; ſeeing houſe and ſhopkeepers, in little way; the mechanical working inhabitants of Middleſex, and of other manufacturing towns in England, whom I have obſerved are moſt in want of redreſs and relief, will not be likely to receive more than a partial remedy, by any thing other than plenty of cattle, ſwine, and cheeſe. But plenty of meat and cheeſe, or moderate prices at markets, will not be found in England whilſt country butchers, or other town butchers—dwellers in the metropolis only excepted—are ſuffered to purſue the before mentioned practices and infringement.

Home plenty is the thing we want—home plenty has been reduced by ſuch butchers, and by example, by other farming perſons, unſeaſonably cutting off calves for veal, thereby (as it were) blaſting the yearly returns, and gifts of Providence—lambs in like manner.

Providence never idle, having an eye to the ſufferings of the people of this land, in all likelihood ordained now as the propereſt time to publiſh thoſe remarks.

The ſighs and cries of poor ſufferers (who brought not ſo weighty a burthen on themſelves) may have reached the ear of the Almighty, who, of his mercy may occaſion an immediate parliamentary interference, to remove or prevent ſuch practices, which will remedy the juſt complaints of his people.

Without the interference of Parliament, or the affectionate aid of the public, as herein laid down needful (if experience is to be depended on) ſuch practices cannot fail to cut off every ſucceeding year, God's bountiful mercies, produces of ſtock (that would live, might they, for good purpoſes) until England's ruin (which God forbid) be unhappily completed.

Provided occular demonſtration be preferred, ye who are the inhabitants of Briſtol, ye who are inhabitants at Bath, ye who viſit occaſionally Briſtol and Bath, with impartiality, may notice how the farms in a ſmall circle, which I ſhall take, viz. twenty miles around either city, were, or are cultured at this juncture. Ye, whoſe hairs diſcover years, may recollect—ye now in youth may inquire, what deſcriptions of managements were, or are carried on, by perſons occupying numerous of beſt dairy, and other farms therein, during the period of thirty-ſix years laſt paſt; it will be found to a certainty, that very numerous extenſive, and ſmall farms have been, and now are cultured by butchers chiefly

followed of courſe. Thoſe land owners kept in view their diſtant fellow creatures, deſpiſing gold, which to gain might be felt even at the metropolis. It is a great happineſs that there are land owners who have not raiſed rents; for no mortal can tell what diſaſters would have ariſen thereby, or the end thereof.

That cattle, ſwine, their productions, wheats were plenty, and as cheap as heretofore, as I have ſtated, no perſon will venture to gainſay, and that the ſame have become too ſcarce, and ſold exhorbitantly dear, is pretty generally admitted.

An Agricultural Report for May, 1796, ſtated, viz.

"Smithfield continues to receive very ſhort ſupplies; the three laſt Monday's markets have not exceeded eight hundred head of beaſts each, when the average demand is two thouſand. Prime beef is very ſcarce, and worth five ſhillings per ſtone; mutton is likewiſe dear, and lamb very backward, though the fall has fortunately been large, veal is the moſt reaſonable meat at market, ſtore cattle and ſheep of all kinds are hardly to be got for money."

This news, particularly for the inhabitants of Middleſex, and for thoſe of all great towns was dreadful.

The writings of great men, old approved authors, are with reaſon to be firſt looked up to for information, but a new author may (if in inferior life) produce a valuable work.

Respecting the Acres.

See Addreſs to the Board of Agriculture, May 24, 1796.

" That a ſingle additional acre cultured at home is more truly valuable than the moſt extenſive poſſeſſions acquired abroad, at an enormous expence of treaſure, and of blood, and retained with difficulty, and danger."

Think then, my countrymen, think of the numerous acres, I tell you are to be found as almoſt uſeleſs in a ſmall circle. Such acres are to be found in moſt counties.

I have mentioned, that thouſands of more acres within the thirty years laſt paſt, have been cultured, than heretofore, when we exported, but they were chiefly acres of poor ſorts of lands, that have yielded in many inſtances, little more than the ſeeds ſown; whereas theſe acres, I declare (as it were) ſhut up from producing ſupplies of grain for the uſe of ſociety, are of the beſt arable nature in culture, perhaps centuries, to know thoſe to be again in full culture, would be joyful news; the reſult of it would be home plenty, ſaid ſo preferable to foreign ever doubtful, and expenſive to be gained.

Seeing monopoly of farms, jobbing, diſuſe of ox ploughs, the breed and uſe of horſes in England, a neglect of cheeſe making, may each have contributed towards working up ſcarcity of cattle, and ſwine, to the dearneſs of proviſions, tallow candles and ſoap, ſo complained of. My hope is, that ſatisfactory proofs, touching the circumſtance, or grand cauſe which has given ſcope for ſuch practices, and other foul play, will herein be found, with good and expedient means for effectual remedy; to the ſame ſource, the ſtoppage of the diſtilleries, the conſequent loſs to the revenue, may reaſonably be attributed.

in manner as I herein have deſcribed, of whom perhaps many are dead, whilſt perhaps a ſon, or relation may now manage the ſame farm, or farms, as a regular bred farmer, or grazier, which is ſtrictly fair; but ſuch are well ſkilled in the chief of the practices of their predeceſſors, and well know how to create matter for dearneſs. Surely it were but as fair to point out matter for producing fairly, a turn of the ſcale, ſuch a plenty as may permit of moderation in prices.

It will be rare if you find a pariſh, village, or hamlet in that circle, that has not, or that doth not at this juncture produce occupiers of farms, ſuch as butchers farming, ſuckling, &c. &c.

From large, and from ſmaller farms, in a trifling matter, more extenſive circle as firſt mentioned, I have obſerved, that heretofore the markets in the routes to, alſo of Smithfield were aſtoniſhingly ſupplied with bullocks, ſheep, and cheeſe; and that the near home, or neighbouring markets were plentifully ſupplied with cattle and beef, and mutton of ſuperior qualities; alſo with almoſt every neceſſary marketing, even to ſimple herbs, by perſons as twice, or thrice a week conſtantly.

But of late, as ten years paſt, and at this juncture, you get from farms ſo occupied, houſe lamb, veal, graſs lamb, a little mutton, and leſs beef, whilſt for either article ſeparately, or jointly, you are worked up to pay prices, not leſs than extortionate; add to this, ſcarcely one pound of cheeſe, or butter, a ſingle drop of milk, or cream throughout the year.

I ſay extortionate, becauſe much of the lands are let at old rents, from whence ſuch proviſions were ſo few years ago, produced at cheap rates, yet afforded profits, abundant riches, and ſeeming content on all ſides.

That many of thoſe particularly productive farms, and much lands, are let at old rents, ſee General View of Agriculture in the county of Somerſet, page 11. "The lands in this vale are very fruitful, &c." Again, "From the beſt of motives have been long in the habit of letting their eſtates at the old rents."

I have nothing to do with how lands are, or ought to be let. The beſt of motives has no doubt produced content, a train of ſweets in thought unknown to the avaricious.

Purſuits agricultural, eſpecially if tending to advance rents of farms, are inferior motives of courſe.

Farmers would do well for their country, for themſelves, for their iſſue, by keeping up ſuch a plenty of ſtock for human food, &c. as would permit of moderation in prices at market. It would be the moſt certain means for preventing land owners of ſmall incomes laying on advances of rent.

Advances on rents, give fairly room for pleadings for dearneſs.

When plenty abounded, ſmall farms in that vale were managed neatly; but as ſcarcity, and dearneſs crept in, monopoly of farms, ſuch or ſuch herds and flocks, ſuch or ſuch work *ſhall* do, has unhappily been the word. Slovenly appearances have

all the diſaſters, which of late have befallen us ſuch were enacted, but have been groſsly infringed on; now to me the circumſtance moſt lamentable, was, that the King of England, our moſt affectionate and gracious ſovereign, was offended, and moſt groſsly. If about ſcarcity or dearneſs of proviſions, I hope that I have proved that one nor the other could not, nor can be imputed in any degree whatſoever there.

Were his Majeſty's ſubjects in the habit of getting plenty of food moderately cheap, no grumbling would be heard.

I firmly believe that every Engliſhman wiſhes to know the true cauſe of ſuch diſaſters. I believe that one and all with their lives would freely ſhew their love for the beſt of monarchs, by protecting his Majeſty from harm or offence; his royal family likewiſe, God bleſs them all. I muſt think well of the care and efforts of a miniſter, who amidſt difficulties incredibly numerous, ſaved a million yearly, proving the flouriſhing ſtate of trade in certain ways, but the vaſt fallings off and the additional out-goings of the revenue as herein ſtated, prevented perhaps more than double ſavings. Conſider my country men what I have ſaid, you have experienced ſcarcity and dearneſs 'tis true, but you may find ſpeedily that I have told you truth reſpecting a reſtoration of plenty.

Conſider, Man's real wants are but few, our greateſt earthly wants are an augmentation of proviſions. Markets ſufficiently thronged with living ſtock, and articles of proviſions and common neceſſaries to lower prices.

Almoſt half a century I declare a ſtream has roughly run the wrong way.

Patience muſt be regarded whilſt cattle grow, but cattle do not grow or fatten in palace courts, nor the ſquares or ſtreets of London. Obſerve, that all public outrage doeth more harm than good, ruination attendeth depredation, our own reaſon tells us if dealing perſons buy dear they muſt ſell dear, or ſink into poverty.

Leave deſpair, ſtedfaſtly believe that provided one and all by unaffected loyalty, try to merit the name of Briton, and calmly wait for the remedy wanting, thoſe in power will comply with your wiſhes, by ſeeking that remedy agreeable to his Majeſty's affectionate deſire. I hope the laws may not longer remain in a ſtate inſufficiently reſtrictive, thoſe in power will ſurely cruſh every means that may tend to occaſion ſcarcity and dearneſs hereafter.

The idea of limiting food in a land like this is very alarming, but it was ſpoken of in a year, ſuch another to experience God forbid. God intended better food for the pooreſt Engliſhman than potatoes and ſalt, or therewith a light red herring only, God ordered wheat for bread, and that oxen, and ſheep ſhould be eaten; God giveth them in their due ſeaſon for to grow, but man hath prevented the ſowing of one and unſeaſonably deſtroyed the other; bread and meat were plenty, potatoes were not; as wheat fell off, potatoes were ſubſtituted, which with good meat pleaſed, but by want of wheat, and meat, health, vigour, means for ſavings, ſmall portions of money, town or country has fallen off, likewiſe leaving us little other than wretchedneſs.

The importance of the diſtilleries, and income to the revenue ariſing therefrom, muſt have been very great, but to looſe that income by any circumſtance that might occur of power ſufficient to effect ſo great a loſs, appears to merit ſerious diſcuſſion. About twenty-five thouſand hogs, fattened and turned out from all the diſtilleries in the realm, weekly, being the eſtimated number by good judges, may afford ſome inſight as to the quantity of wheat which muſt have been uſed for ſpirits, drawn previous to the grains and liquid being given to the ſwine.

Twenty-five thouſand hogs weekly, ſuppoſing them killed in the courſe of forty weeks annually, multiplying the number, make one million. Here the work of Providence was very great.

Provided according with the aforeſaid eſtimation, the diſtilleries had been kept open, and ſuch a number of lean hogs been ſought, human underſtanding is not equal to aſcertain what would have been the prices demanded for poor pigs.

Diſtillers could not afford to waſte their pig food, farmers could not afford to waſte their pig food; in which caſe either would have bought up, (ſeeing the few which were found lean, were grazed, and ſold out at nearly twelve ſhillings per ſcore, or the average) hurry, hurry (without diſcretion) at any price; the weight falling upon the conſumer of courſe.

Scarcity of wheat was the cauſe of the ſtoppage of the diſtilleries.

Provided the proofs which I have ſtated, of the cauſe of the falling off, or neglect of raiſing wheat

be ſatisfactory, the cauſe of ſuch a period being put to diſtilling for a time, the cauſe of that loſs to the revenue, whatever may be the amount, it originated in that falling off, or neglect of raiſing the grain, the ſtoppage of the diſtilleries was not the reſult of one failing crop.

The war, without a doubt, has greatly contributed towards that extraordinary dearneſs, of late ſo ſeverely felt, becauſe it came on at a time when the live ſtock of the country was greatly reduced; it has therefore occaſioned a more rapid advance of prices than would otherwiſe have been the caſe, but be it remembered for a long time previous to the preſent, or the American war, cattle, ſwine, cheeſe, all ſorts of proviſion and common neceſſaries were rapidly becoming ſcarce and dear, one and all ſuch to bargain for contributing toward producing weighty diſagreeables for a miniſter to encounter more than ever before experienced.

May this my mite prove uſeful to the preſent miniſter, and to his ſucceſſors. I hope that I have made clear that the cauſe of ſuch grievances has been practiſed as hidden from miniſterial view, wherefore ſeeing how numerous, weighty and diſtreſſing ſuch evils, and the hangers on appear to be; if ſuch are not removed, the needful remedy may be ſought in vain.

The different acts, or ſtatutes made by our forefathers to keep country butchers on proper ground, ſatisfieth me that in their day, injurious practices were purſued by butchers; wherefore in their great wiſdom, foreſeeing ſuch practiſes were pregnant with

Suppoſing all butchers prevented farming more acres than ſufficient to cool fattened far driven cattle, and it were required, viz. Will not ſuch a meaſure create greater ſcarcity for a while? How will ſupplies of food be obtained for market uſes, ſeeing compulſory meaſures are not recommended? moreover, that all farms are not occupied by butchers, and it be admitted that cattle are ſcarce in reality in thoſe weſt counties.

To theſe I would reply. All butchers would ſtand upon more equal ground, the butcher with but ſmall or light purſe would again ſpeedily find places to exerciſe his ſkill and abilities in fair chance dealing, and himſelf not deprived of uſing properly a ſmall capital.

By cattle and ſwine having become ſcarce in the weſt of England, they are likewiſe become ſo nearly general, becauſe, although all farms are not occupied by butchers, example has occaſioned farmers to practiſe buſineſs nearly like them with the exception of not butchering, thus, contagion-like the evil has ſpread into divers counties, I believe its effects has been felt at the Land's End, and acroſs the Tweed. On butchers being prevented farming whilſt uſing the art of a butcher, large and ſmall dairy farms will ſpeedily be ſeen more properly cultured than of late, and found to ſupply proper and ſufficient marketings, firſt in thoſe weſtern counties ſo much depended on for ſtock of old, then expanding, nature will ſhew her power, by working plenty in a manner as unawares. As buſineſs changed on butchers entering on farms throughout divers pariſhes to the wrong mode, the ſyſtem of farming

(from the preſent) will ſhew, altered to the right, pointing towards plenty and moderation.

All farmers would, no doubt, conform to ſell, at times, prices permitting of proper profits for butchers, rather than turn fattened ſtaged calves or houſe lambs out to wean, rear, &c.

Provided a few farmers were found to hold out for a few weeks, being unwilling to conform to allow moderate profits and deal, one month is about the longeſt time that farmers would hold, or ſtand out for prices. If farmers ſtand out a longer time, nay at length might turn out calves or lambs, by the bye, it would be known, as not likely to turn to good account to the owners; becauſe, let it be underſtood, ſuch cattle might be expected in time to make their appearance at market, as full grown, ſuch would not be loſt to the community; their appearance on the earth would, by nature, ſoon work plenty and reduce prices, as time advances.

Perhaps every lug of land, eſpecially where the induſtrious reſide, would be found worked, becauſe every ſmall article would be found neceſſary to be raiſed, and of courſe brought to markets to make up rents.

Provided more markets are in future deemed neceſſary, thoſe cried off, may be cried on again.

Knowing all this, farmers and graziers, would again ſeek and invite dealers as formerly: the ſcale would be turned.

Better inclined butchers, than thoſe who purchaſe the chief if not all the weighable cattle

they retail by weight; better ſkilled butchers many of whom at this time beg to purchaſe, beg to ſell, would (no doubt) meet with public encouragement.

The public—every cuſtomer—by aſſiſting to extirpate ſuch growing evils, would in return reap the benefit ſpeedily.

Know then reader, male or female, not to aſſiſt to effect ſo great a work, meant to preſerve laws amongſt men, high or low perſonages, rich or poor, by diſregarding meaſures which are eaſy to accompliſh the bleſſing of plenty, which will to a certainty produce moderation, will appear as having complained of ſcarcity and dearneſs unjuſtly.

All perſons have been, and all are, more or leſs, affected by the evils complained of; all are intereſted in the event, which may produce plenty, for it cannot fail to relieve the poor. May endeavours for that purpoſe meet with heavenly aſſiſtance, and a happy reward.

Covetous inexperienced perſons have ſaid, "There is no ſcarcity, but enough of every neceſſary if folks can find money to pay for them."

But what ſort of enough doth it conſiſt of? Why little enough. Perſons perſuaded that ſcarcity doth not prevail, will not believe agricultural reports, letters, papers, &c. &c. nor my remarks about their fellow creatures ſufferings, herein perhaps deſcribed too faintly.

It is worth conſideration, whether agricultural reports on certain occaſions made public, are pro-

per. Fifteen years ago its buz paſſed by unnoticed by the inexperienced in country buſineſs, but the miſchief done thereby ſince the buz of ſcarcity and dearneſs cannot be calculated, or even conceived.

The ſame with reſpect to market chronicles.

Whether, if ſuch reports or chronicles anſwer the purpoſes of avaricious men, they do not tend more frequently to injure the community at large. Moreover, they have been a great obſtacle in the way of the miniſter, in his purſuits for the general welfare which followeth, real national intereſt.

Whether, inſtead of uſing means for aſcertaining the general price of ſtock, it were not better to attend to the means of promoting the breeding and rearing of ſtock.

Beef or mutton, with potatoes, is good food; without meat, milk, or butter-milk, potatoes are bad food, eſpecially in the decline of life.

Of beef, mutton, pork, cheeſe and butter, I contend for that ſort of enough, that artificers and the poor in town and country, may have choice. Moderate cheapneſs affording comforts on the one hand, and profits adequate to happineſs on the other.

I contend not for prices which might appear as much too low as of late, and at this juncture found too high.

Money minded perſons may wiſh for a continuance of dearneſs even to enormity.

If ſuch a one or more doth exiſt, ſuch ſhould read the word of the Lord, by his prophet.

See Iſaiah, c. xxxii, v. 8. " The liberal deviſeth liberal things: and by liberal things ſhall he ſtand."

By the holy Pſalmiſt we are told, ſee Pſalm c, v. 3, " We are his people, and the ſheep of his paſture."

The poor are part of his flock of courſe, which the covetous and the liberal may have heard, and ought to know. Moreover, that the fruits of the earth were deſigned for the uſes, and the comforts of all mankind, by the Almighty Creator of whom thoſe holy writers ſpake, which cannot be diſputed but for the ſake of covetous wicked argument.

In the Eccleſiaſtes we read, ſee c. v, v. 9, " The profit of the earth is for all, the king himſelf is ſerved by the field."

Seeing laws were made centuries paſt, when proviſions were, no doubt, found ſcarce and too dear; which ſaid laws, in their preſent ſtate, appear as not being ſufficiently reſtrictive by reaſon of infringement thereon practiſed, although to the known great detriment of fair trading, and the great injury of the community. Circumſtances having again reduced man's food as to occaſion the calamities of the laſt fifteen years; but more eſpecially thoſe of 1795 and 1796. In order to prevent ſeverer calamities befalling Britons, or as much as poſſible to ward off thoſe impending, owing to the exceſſive dear prices which lean ſtock bear, I conceive nothing can appear more prudent, or would give greater ſatisfaction to the people, than a parliamentary diſ-

cuſſion to prove theſe my remarks, as touching the cauſe of ſuch dearneſs, leaving to amend the laws, for remedy effectual, to their wiſdom and power.

I hope Parliament may rely on my veracity and experience, hereby meant for their uſe as an humble guide. I would pilot Britons from ſcarcity and dearneſs, a ſea of troubles, to the harbour of peace, plenty, and happineſs.

Surely it muſt give great trouble to all well-diſpoſed experienced or other men to know, that fat oxen, ſince Jauuary 1796, have advanced in prices ſo much as to coſt retail cutting butchers upwards of three guineas per hundred weight, at great diſtances from Smithfield; and there much higher prices. Pigs to twelve ſhillings per ſcore, head and feet included. Cheeſe to three pounds per ton weight. But above all advances on poor oxen, nearly half, as from ten to fifteen in one year only; will it not move their pity for their fellow creatures, who look up to parliament for the moſt ſpeedy prevention of greater ſufferings, which by the alarming riſe on poor bullocks as ſtated in Somerſetſhire, alſo in Yorkſhire, where lean oxen ſuch as heretofore were bought at eighteen pounds per yoke, now yield forty pounds, owing to the more than uſual premature ſlaughtering of calves. Laſt ſeaſon, the ſcarcity and prices paid for lean bullocks, alſo for calves for ſuckling, preſageth a greater ſlaughter of young ſtock next ſeaſon, for food for the day, and dearneſs of meat beyond example.

Such being the caſe, the enſuing calving ſeaſon demands the utmoſt attention to prevent a ſtill greater, or even ſo great a number of calves from being deſtroyed as there were laſt year, in 1797.

Sheep being much dearer than they were laſt year, owing to a real ſcarcity, it will be found equally neceſſary to attend to the enſuing lambing ſeaſon, viz. to prevent in the courſe of the ſpring and ſummer months, in 1797, more lambs as well as calves being devoured.

Prior to the lamentable event of veal being ſold by weight, neither farmers, nor graziers were capable, as they are now, of aſcertaining the amount of butchers profits, which I conceive they ſhould have nothing to do with.—But unhappily ſince that event took place, farmers, and graziers have made the mode of ſelling fattened cattle by weight their principal ſtudy, endeavouring to ſet the butchers profits at fixed rates, and to preclude butchers—as it were—from obtaining ſuch bargains as they formerly did.

Profits ought to be the reward of fair dealing, ſkill and induſtry,

Butchers have nothing to do with the profits of ſellers of fattened cattle.

The practice of buying cattle by weight, has proved a ſnare to town and country butchers, eſpecially to thoſe who farm not; for ſuch it is worthy of profound conſideration; for it is prejudicial not only as touching ſkill, and profits, but hurtful to

the community. It may be got the better of, by buying at fairs, or markets only, avoiding by wagers, or elſe to diſcloſe the weight of cattle.

Men, rich, or poor, ought not to aſſent to meaſures likely to be hurtful to the exiſting community, or to futurity. Let it ſuffice, to perſevere in dealing as much as poſſible by hand at fairs, and markets, an uniform attention to that maxim, would afford ſecret pleaſures, profits weighty, and defeat ſchemes, which may be attempted for promoting dearneſs.

Bread being generally deemed the ſtaff of life, I muſt own, that jobbers of wheat, are the jobbers moſt to be dreaded, becauſe grain can be hidden.

A few obſervations I had made previous to the late happy fallings in the price of wheat, I cannot omit inſerting; the intent of this book, being (if poſſible) to prevent in future, diſaſters ſuch as lately experienced.

By the goodneſs of Providence, by the wiſe meaſures of parliament (that of obtaining imports of wheat in particular) at an alarming time, ſo much of that grain is in ſtore, that even ſuppoſing the practiſes which were the original cauſe of the ſcarcity be ſuffered to continue its counteracting part, there may be no want of wheat for a few years.

My hope is, that hereby Parliament may be enabled to put things on ſuch a footing, that wheat may never more be found ſcarce in England.

Were it poſſible to point out real advantages to the community at large, ariſing from corn dealers, commonly called meal-men, ſuch ſhould have paſſed unnoticed in this book; but ſeeing advantages

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Know then reader, male or female, not to aſſiſt to effect ſo great a work, meant to preſerve laws amongſt men, high or low perſonages, rich or poor, by diſregarding meaſures which are eaſy to accompliſh the bleſſing of plenty, which will to a certainty produce moderation, will appear as having complained of ſcarcity and dearneſs unjuſtly.

All perſons have been, and all are, more or leſs, affected by the evils complained of; all are intereſted in the event, which may produce plenty, for it cannot fail to relieve the poor. May endeavours for that purpoſe meet with heavenly aſſiſtance, and a happy reward.

Covetous inexperienced perſons have ſaid, "There is no ſcarcity, but enough of every neceſſary if folks can find money to pay for them."

But what ſort of enough doth it conſiſt of? Why little enough. Perſons perſuaded that ſcarcity doth not prevail, will not believe agricultural reports, letters, papers, &c. &c. nor my remarks about their fellow creatures ſufferings, herein perhaps deſcribed too faintly.

It is worth conſideration, whether agricultural reports on certain occaſions made public, are pro-

per. Fifteen years ago its buz paſſed by unnoticed by the inexperienced in country buſineſs, but the miſchief done thereby ſince the buz of ſcarcity and dearneſs cannot be calculated, or even conceived.

The ſame with reſpect to market chronicles.

Whether, if ſuch reports or chronicles anſwer the purpoſes of avaricious men, they do not tend more frequently to injure the community at large. Moreover, they have been a great obſtacle in the way of the miniſter, in his purſuits for the general welfare which followeth, real national intereſt.

Whether, inſtead of uſing means for aſcertaining the general price of ſtock, it were not better to attend to the means of promoting the breeding and rearing of ſtock.

Beef or mutton, with potatoes, is good food; without meat, milk, or butter-milk, potatoes are bad food, eſpecially in the decline of life.

Of beef, mutton, pork, cheeſe and butter, I contend for that ſort of enough, that artificers and the poor in town and country, may have choice. Moderate cheapneſs affording comforts on the one hand, and profits adequate to happineſs on the other.

I contend not for prices which might appear as much too low as of late, and at this juncture found too high.

Money minded perſons may wiſh for a continuance of dearneſs even to enormity.

If ſuch a one or more doth exiſt, ſuch ſhould read the word of the Lord, by his prophet.

See Iſaiah, c. xxxii, v. 8. "The liberal deviſeth liberal things: and by liberal things ſhall he ſtand."

By the holy Pſalmiſt we are told, ſee Pſalm c, v. 3, "We are his people, and the ſheep of his paſture."

The poor are part of his flock of courſe, which the covetous and the liberal may have heard, and ought to know. Moreover, that the fruits of the earth were deſigned for the uſes, and the comforts of all mankind, by the Almighty Creator of whom thoſe holy writers ſpake, which cannot be diſputed but for the ſake of covetous wicked argument.

In the Eccleſiaſtes we read, ſee c. v, v. 9, "The profit of the earth is for all, the king himſelf is ſerved by the field."

Seeing laws were made centuries paſt, when proviſions were, no doubt, found ſcarce and too dear; which ſaid laws, in their preſent ſtate, appear as not being ſufficiently reſtrictive by reaſon of infringement thereon practiſed, although to the known great detriment of fair trading, and the great injury of the community. Circumſtances having again reduced man's food as to occaſion the calamities of the laſt fifteen years; but more eſpecially thoſe of 1795 and 1796. In order to prevent ſeverer calamities befalling Britons, or as much as poſſible to ward off thoſe impending, owing to the exceſſive dear prices which lean ſtock bear, I conceive nothing can appear more prudent, or would give greater ſatisfaction to the people, than a parliamentary diſ-

cuſſion to prove theſe my remarks, as touching the cauſe of ſuch dearneſs, leaving to amend the laws, for remedy effectual, to their wiſdom and power.

I hope Parliament may rely on my veracity and experience, hereby meant for their uſe as an humble guide. I would pilot Britons from ſcarcity and dearneſs, a ſea of troubles, to the harbour of peace, plenty, and happineſs.

Surely it muſt give great trouble to all well-diſpoſed experienced or other men to know, that fat oxen, ſince Jauuary 1796, have advanced in prices ſo much as to coſt retail cutting butchers upwards of three guineas per hundred weight, at great diſtances from Smithfield; and there much higher prices. Pigs to twelve ſhillings per ſcore, head and feet included. Cheeſe to three pounds per ton weight. But above all advances on poor oxen, nearly half, as from ten to fifteen in one year only; will it not move their pity for their fellow creatures, who look up to parliament for the moſt ſpeedy prevention of greater ſufferings, which by the alarming riſe on poor bullocks as ſtated in Somerſetſhire, alſo in Yorkſhire, where lean oxen ſuch as heretofore were bought at eighteen pounds per yoke, now yield forty pounds, owing to the more than uſual premature ſlaughtering of calves. Laſt ſeaſon, the ſcarcity and prices paid for lean bullocks, alſo for calves for ſuckling, preſageth a greater ſlaughter of young ſtock next ſeaſon, for food for the day, and dearneſs of meat beyond example.

Such being the caſe, the enſuing calving ſeaſon demands the utmoſt attention to prevent a ſtill greater, or even ſo great a number of calves from being deſtroyed as there were laſt year, in 1797.

Sheep being much dearer than they were laſt year, owing to a real ſcarcity, it will be found equally neceſſary to attend to the enſuing lambing ſeaſon, viz. to prevent in the courſe of the ſpring and ſummer months, in 1797, more lambs as well as calves being devoured.

Prior to the lamentable event of veal being ſold by weight, neither farmers, nor graziers were capable, as they are now, of aſcertaining the amount of butchers profits, which I conceive they ſhould have nothing to do with.—But unhappily ſince that event took place, farmers, and graziers have made the mode of ſelling fattened cattle by weight their principal ſtudy, endeavouring to ſet the butchers profits at fixed rates, and to preclude butchers—as it were—from obtaining ſuch bargains as they formerly did.

Profits ought to be the reward of fair dealing, ſkill and induſtry,

Butchers have nothing to do with the profits of ſellers of fattened cattle.

The practice of buying cattle by weight, has proved a ſnare to town and country butchers, eſpecially to thoſe who farm not; for ſuch it is worthy of profound conſideration; for it is prejudicial not only as touching ſkill, and profits, but hurtful to

the community. It may be got the better of, by buying at fairs, or markets only, avoiding by wagers, or elſe to diſcloſe the weight of cattle.

Men, rich, or poor, ought not to aſſent to meaſures likely to be hurtful to the exiſting community, or to futurity. Let it ſuffice, to perſevere in dealing as much as poſſible by hand at fairs, and markets, an uniform attention to that maxim, would afford ſecret pleaſures, profits weighty, and defeat ſchemes, which may be attempted for promoting dearneſs.

Bread being generally deemed the ſtaff of life, I muſt own, that jobbers of wheat, are the jobbers moſt to be dreaded, becauſe grain can be hidden.

A few obſervations I had made previous to the late happy fallings in the price of wheat, I cannot omit inſerting; the intent of this book, being (if poſſible) to prevent in future, diſaſters ſuch as lately experienced.

By the goodneſs of Providence, by the wiſe meaſures of parliament (that of obtaining imports of wheat in particular) at an alarming time, ſo much of that grain is in ſtore, that even ſuppoſing the practiſes which were the original cauſe of the ſcarcity, be ſuffered to continue its counteracting part, there may be no want of wheat for a few years.

My hope is, that hereby Parliament may be enabled to put things on ſuch a footing, that wheat may never more be found ſcarce in England.

Were it poſſible to point out real advantages to the community at large, ariſing from corn dealers, commonly called meal-men, ſuch ſhould have paſſed unnoticed in this book; but ſeeing advantages

too great were unfeelingly taken on the late alarming out-cry about ſcarcity of wheat, of the community, I ſhall ſay a few words thereon.

Thirty-ſix years ago, farmers, who carried to markets grain, in manner as I have before deſcribed, eſpecially wheat from ſmall farms, diſpoſed of it either to a miller baker, or baker. It was rare if a perſon acted between the farmer and miller baker, or the farmer and baker, becauſe plenty of corn then abounding, perſons although ſkilled in corn ventured not to monopolize or traffick therein, conſequently were done without; but near, and at London, corn dealers, or meal-men at aforetime, were found occaſionally uſeful, as after failing crops, when weſt country bakers, at times were neceſſiated to apply to corn dealers at Newbury, Reading, or other diſtant markets, where they got ſupplies; but other years, meal-men rarely turned a guinea weſtward for wheat, or flower, other than for exportation.

Since that time, obſerving numerous farms to produce little, or no wheat, corn dealers judged with certainty the reſult; ſuch took up to deal in corn accumulating aſtoniſhing profits by jobbing, transferring the article to perhaps five, or more hands before it came to mill.

In May 1795, wheat and flour were to be found, but not exactly where ſuch ought.

Farmers, occupiers of ſmall farms ſhortly after the harveſt of 1794, diſpoſed of their little, chiefly to meal-men.

Opulent farmers in corn countries, occupiers of

of large arable, or ſheaf farms, had good ſtores by them when the out-cry took place of wheat being in reality ſcarce.

Of ſuch farmers few by hearkening at markets what prices meal-men, millers, or bakers would give, took perhaps the firſt riſe, thinking it a price would not be advanced on.

Others ſtood out, communicated bidden prices to diſtant markets; but the grand miſchief was along with meal-men, who put on prices becauſe they would.

In January, 1795, wheat was bought for eight ſhillings and ſix-pence per buſhel. In February following, wheat was bought for eight ſhillings and three-pence per buſhel at moſt great markets, which ſhews there was for chance ſale at that time at markets in bulk, or by ſample, ſufficient to cauſe a falling in price.

Shortly after February, the alarm ſpread, wary dealers took advantage, brotherly love became an out-of-the-way thought.

Before Lammas day arrived, wheat ſold at three guineas per ſack. At divers places, at nearly one guinea per buſhel.

But it is to be remembered, although farmers almoſt generally ſhared in ſuch extraordinary gain, whereby they may have enſared themſelves, or their progeny) the cauſe thereof originated in the error of country butchers farming.

Sad events were the reſult of reports; for as this market day, perſons who ſought wheat, were told, viz.

" Next week it will be dearer by ten ſhillings per ſack, but no perſon had good reaſon to aſſign for it other than—Mr. Such-an-one ſays it will be ſo."

Such predictions were verified by the error in judgment, of giving way, however ſuch has been a leſſon : it ſerves to ſhew reports may produce evils even of enormity.

Provided that ſort of jobbing, or trafficking were put a ſtop to at great diſtances from the metropolis, the community would greatly benefit by ſuch a meaſure. On the the contrary, whilſt ſuffered to be practiſed, the loaf of bread cannot fail to coſt more money than abſolutely neceſſary.

No mortal can gueſs the quantities of old wheat and flour that are ſtill to be heard of.

Hidden ſtock has a right to be turned into money at fair market prices. To attempt at compelling perſons to ſell at fixed prices, or by ſample, or bulk, were better avoided.

Meal-men ſhould have fair play for ſale.

I have ſtated, wheat had been falling ſhort yearly; there was room for nice judges, eſpecially the avaricious, to make out-cry—ſo fares John Bull.

In 1795, it was publiſhed, that a broader piece of wheat was up than for many preceding years.

Doth not publication manifeſt, that a falling off had been viſible.

The plat was found leſs, and but for the imports received, Britons ſtill were left in the diſmal vale of ſcarcity. Scarcity and dearneſs pray God baniſh, and in the place thereof give us home grown plenty.

It has been urged, that lately, as in 1792, plenty abounded in the country, and every circumſtance of happineſs and proſperity was evident.

Alas! neither one nor the other did generally ſo lately prevail; previous thereto were heard grievous complaints in divers quarters, or parts of England, of the enormous prices paid for meat and cheeſe.

In 1795, the pen of an Agriculturiſt ſet forth that many hundreds of acres of wheat, with common manure at the late harveſt (i. e. that 1795) produced only their ſeed, or leſs. This remark leads me to ſay a few words reſpecting incloſing waſte lands, moors, commons, &c. which probably, provided plenty had continued to abound as of old, would not have become the word of the day.

If acres laſt year, which was a year of ſunſhine and rain, uncommonly fine, with common manure produced not more than the ſeed ſown, what crops can be expected from acres more poor in nature, ill ſituated to be any how manured. To plough up waſtes and ſuch lands is ſtepping widely out of the good old way; better were ſuch lands crowded as at aforetime with young beaſts, ſteers, heifers, and ſheep; alſo with geeſe and horſes; better were their owners provided with proper places hard by, and taught how beſt to ſecure winter provender, in caſe of ſuch ſtock being unſold at late year.

Were the waſte lands, and moor lands, in England well ſtocked with rearing bullocks, &c. &c. alſo the arable acres, which I have pronounced

like idle found in proper cultivation for grain, the proſpect for Britons, notwithſtanding war, would be wealth and happineſs: on the contrary, dearneſs for food—miſeries, not intended by the Creator, are more than likely to be the lot of all perſons of ſmall income, or artificers, and the poor.

To break up waſte and moor lands, I conceive will ſerve for ſtamping a ſort of ſtandard price on lean cattle, and ſuch like ſtock. The chief and beſt uſe of waſtes and moor lands in my time has been found for rearing ſtock cheap; rearers of young beaſts, or ſuch as ought to rear them, if waſte lands are broke up, will have room to ſay, there remaineth not proper places for to turn out growing ſtock to pick a livelihood cheap as at aforetime.

To rear poor ſtock will not pay; they muſt be kept on better lands, as dairy men and breeders we cannot afford to rear, unleſs ſuch ſtock yield us high prices: in which caſe lean ſtock, if bought dear, continually will produce a ſort of ſtandard high price for meat likewiſe.

The ſame may be expected on other articles, ſeeing farmers ſtudy how to talk.

Home work perhaps neglected, delay, ill ſituation, expences attending diſtant huſbandry, may afford ſcope for argument about doubtful crops, create ſuſpence, and in the end dearneſs; better to try to reſtore plenty previouſly.

Country people, as moor and waſte cottagers, long in the habit of rearing divers ſorts of uſeful ſtock, cannot fail to be reduced to greater ſtraits

than heretofore by ſuch a meaſure: wherefore land owners, and thoſe in power ought to conſider ſuch a buſineſs well, before it be too late, whether it will not leſſen the value of landed property already incloſed; and be the means of creating greater poverty, diſcontent, murmurings, and diſobedience in the country; moreover, compleat the ruin and wretchedneſs of town artificers, town and country poor. But monied men, it has been urged, cannot fail to make great fortunes by chances, ariſing from incloſing waſte and moor lands; alſo may be ſaid, viz. there remaineth hope, the God of the poor can fruſtrate. If it be good policy to cauſe part of his Majeſty's ſubjects to become dwellers on lands, that bane even geeſe, more need not be ſaid.

Obſerve, perſeverance to reſtore plenty of cattle, and ſtock, which I have ſhewn is practicable, even without ſuch a meaſure is beſt; in which caſe, monied men may purchaſe new incloſures, waſtes, or moor lands, and place poor ſouls to work thereon; but the ſame would turn to very poor account. Remove the cauſe of ſcarcity of live ſtock, and evils that attend ſuch ſpeculation would vaniſh.

The taking of tithes in kind has been urged as wrong; that "a plan to accommodate all parties intereſted, might be found; for, if in a ſingle pariſh ſome thouſand buſhels leſs produce be found by means of tithes being taken in kind, what would be the produce thereof through the land?" Too many of the clergy, (to whom the care of our ſouls are committed) have been, and ſtill are to be found, who patiently have laboured on incomes

too unequal, inſufficient to anſwer for the abſolute neceſſaries of the day: for ſuch are covetouſly enhanced to prices even out of *their* reach.

To be the means of plenty of wheat abounding is not all that is wanting, or neceſſary to be done reſpecting man's food; proper proviſions cannot be reſtored by means only of new plans for the taking of tithes, plenty, fair open plenty of cattle, ſwine, and cheeſe, at fairs and markets are the bleſſings generally wanted, without which all perſons intereſted cannot be accommodated with plenty of proviſions, and common neceſſaries moderately. Liberal farmers have declared they could afford to ſell wheat for ſeven ſhillings per buſhel: whereas more than double that ſum has been paid.

Farmers more liberal have declared ſix ſhillings per buſhel for wheat, ſufficient to pay for the deareſt rented lands in England. Imports have nearly proved the ſame true, yet in March 1797, the aſſized ſixpenny loaf, wheaten, at Bath was 2 lb. 13 oz. 12 dr. only.

His Majeſty's home territories, if properly cultured, would produce plenty thereof for home uſes, and to permit of exportation as at aforetime they did, which would defeat all ills ſuſpected, as poſſible to ariſe from ſelling by ſample.

In my progreſs of dealing for bullocks, and retailing their productions, much argument tranſpired reſpecting oil cakes, on which I ſhall ſay ſome words.

Oil cake for fattening bullocks, may afford great profits; at the ſame time it may be underſtood, ſuch bullocks generally produce great injury to the conſumers of the meat therewith fattened.

Cuſtomers (who ſeldom bought ſuch of me) exclaimed mightily againſt that provender, juſtly obſerving, that although oil cake cauſed bullocks to appear bulky, to handle big in their points, to fetch great prices for the feeders, alſo when killed to appear as well fattened, and to have afforded prodigious and uncommon profits to the butchers, advantages ended there. Perſons who had been enticed to buy, owing to ſuch falſe appearance, at, perhaps, extra prices, were loathed at table by bad taſte, by bad look, the fat drawn out at the fire, a piece which raw, looked beautiful, came up to table a black, hard, offenſive, bad piece of food, and reduced, not weighing what it ought after cooking, which otherwiſe it would, had the animal been fattened with the wholeſome fodder of graſs and hay.

I hope the minds of perſons in earthly power will immediately be ſo diſpoſed as to diſcuſs theſe my remarks, and I hope the Almighty will prevent harm attending good intentions. War at God's appointed time will ceaſe, but let it be remembered, whether it be war or whether it be peace, plenty of cattle for the needful uſes as to ſupport war, &c. &c. are not only the moſt deſirable, but the moſt neceſſary.

Peace, wiſhed for peace, will not bring with it animals for immediate food and common neceſſaries which we want, plenty of the needful ſort of animals which heretofore in England, Wales and Scotland were found, by iniquitous works of men are reduced to too ſevere ſcarcity.

Cattle muſt be waited for to produce meat, cheeſe and butter, alſo tallow for tallow candles, and ſoap.

To reſtore plenty moſt ſpeedily, I acknowledge muſt be the work of parliament.

Seeing dearneſs of cattle, ſwine, their productions, has been the work of nearly the laſt half century, the liberal will allow the turn of the ſcale has been ſufficient length of time againſt the needy and the poor.

Sometimes opinions alter, puzzled with divers appearances of things, ſo the appearances at markets (occaſionally) alſo of the fields from the year 1760 to 1780 frequently urged me to think things would turn for the better, the evils ſeemingly having not gained the point for ſuch extraordinary dearneſs; but ſince 1780 every year has produced conſiderable riſe, the laſt exceeding all and the bounds of reaſon: at length thirty-ſix years experience has convinced me although there are many hanging-on branches, beſides monopolizing farms, jobbing, foreſtalling, regrating, &c. &c. all have been the produce, the pernicious fruit of one, and the ſame evil grain, viz. country butchers carrying on butchering, farming and ſuckling buſineſſes, which (for general welfare) ought not to be blended. Plenty and cheapneſs, which heretofore were of the pleaſures of the day has thereby changed to ſcarcity and dearneſs.

Were the word of the day charity, the nobility, gentry, even traders have given charitable donations perhaps unexampled.

Were the word of the day to obſerve loyalty, it has been ſaid, miniſters ſhould ſtudy the private intereſt of the people. I cannot believe but that his Majeſty's miniſters would ſecure the hearts of the people towards a moſt affectionate Sovereign, and

all his royal family, and above all ſecure peace of mind, for his Majeſty, and content for his pooreſt ſubjects, by adopting the meaſures herein contained, for to lower the prices of proviſions, is of all things the moſt intereſting to the community.

Houſekeeping eſteemed heretofore noble, has erroneouſly been condemned, as having cauſed ſcarcity and dearneſs. Has not abſtinence been uſed even by the great, for the ſake of example with the view to work out the evil? but it was in vain attempted, as time doth ſhew, the evil has rooted deep, at the bottom alone will be found remedy—may this prove the inſtrument to root it out.

Are birthright incomes, or other riches ſpent, it maketh good for trade.

Perſons in a trading way, who rail at luxuries, ſeldom refuſe the employ of the great, but too frequent ruin themſelves by falſe appearances. The great ſeldom looſe any thing by obſerving courteſy in behaviour, whilſt to infringe not on the laws, to oppreſs not of any claſs, to do common civilities with cheerfulneſs to a fellow creature, and to obey ſuperiors will afford conſolation under any roof.

Our Heavenly Father may diſpoſe things ſo that his Majeſty may deign and recommend to his Parliament that the remarks herein contained, may have parliamentary diſcuſſion, experience has convinced me the ſame will anſwer the affectionate deſires of his Majeſty, viz. the welfare of his people, and prevent ſimilar embarraſſments in future.

To conclude; things eatable having progreſſively advanced in prices beyond reaſon, at length prompted me to publiſh this book, on a ſubject which might

have been ſpun out to volumes, hoping that at leaſt it may prove the key to the needful, wherein, if grammatical errors, or ſeeming incoherences appear, being my firſt attempt, I hope the candid reader will overlook, ſeeing my motive has been to ſtop the progreſs of the diſaſters, ſcarcity and dearneſs, that artificers or poorer people in town and country may experience comforts, nearly, if not wholly, like thoſe experienced heretofore by their anceſtors.

Reſpecting myſelf, I have conſidered the words of St. Paul, ſee Colloſſ. chap. iii. v. 23. "Whatſoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord."

I have been actuated by motives of brotherly love, having been ſituated in life to ſee perſons deal at markets cheerfully, and likewiſe to hear lamentable heart-rending ſighs, complaints of objects in real diſtreſs. Furthermore, having communicated my ideas and intention to perſons of virtuous principles, acquainted with the pains which in the courſe of thirty-ſix years I took to explain this buſineſs in another manner; as it gained ground, I made a promiſe that (God willing) nothing ſhould prevent my accompliſhing this the moſt arduous taſk of my life.

Having made free with my great Creator's name, I truſt I ſhall find forgiveneſs; it is on account of the diſtreſſes of his people that I have ſo uſed it, in hopes that others may think as I do, viz. to augment proviſions, is an object which ought to be taken into conſideration in preference to any other object.

Ye practiſers of the abuſes herein unfolded, reflect on the ſituations of thoſe near you, who ſuffer

cold, hunger, and the want of common neceſſaries of life. Reflect on the miſeries of dwellers in Middleſex, and in other counties who were uſed to be comfortably ſupplied with food from the lands you occupy. Hearken, conſider the promiſed rewards for doing good, or evil in this life. I dare ſay you know that to infringe on, or to diſobey the laws (made to protect man, and property) is to do evil.

Oppreſſors of God's poor ſhould believe "that it is eaſier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven," which paſſage of ſcripture, perhaps was intended to ſignify to ſuch perſons only, that danger, whom in life, heaped riches (under any cloak whatever) by means, which in the all ſeeing eye of God were prejudicial to his poor.

Who can declare the number of inoffenſive perſons in town and country, thoſe who have died of grief, famiſhed within the laſt ſix years. That many have died in that ſtate is but too true.

The account of Dives and Lazarus I believe; alſo that the poor of this latter time, who thus have died, will be received, and found in a more fit ſtate to meet the Saviour of the world at the great day of awful judgment than their worldly oppreſſors: nevertheleſs, contrition may gain the bleſſing, eternal ſalvation.

SUPPLEMENT.

IT has been ſaid, " The beſt way of judging of things is by the event of them."

In the foregoing ſheets I have preſumed to ſtate, That unleſs the origin, root, or cauſe, of ſcarcity, and dearneſs, be removed, effectual remedy may be ſought in vain.

The cauſe of ſcarcity originated in practices at farms, in the villages, in the circle of a few miles round Bath, which being developed truly, and removable, I have great hope that it will be immediately removed by means of the interference of parliament.

Dearneſs has been wound up by means of many errors; the depth of that malignity is great.

The mode for removing it, I ſhall ſtate with impartiality, void of offence, hoping all parties will obſerve the ſame.

Thirty-ſix years attention to its progreſs on my part, may ſuffice for my advancing, that a remedy of ſuch dearneſs as has of late been experienced, is practicable to be brought about, by

the body corporate, by thoſe who viſit, alſo by the inhabitants of Briſtol, Bath and its vicinities.

Having the welfare of Bath and its inhabitants at heart, by way of ſupplement I ſhall ſay a few words, which may merit the conſideration of the reſorting viſitors, reſident gentry, the body corporate, and the inhabitants thereof, conceiving ſuch neceſſary, in behalf of all, but more ſo of many, are my diſtreſſed fellow citizens.

In this my attempt to do the public good, although the adage ſays, even prophets are ſlighted at home, I venture to claim public attention—becauſe one and all are intereſted—notwithſtanding, according with common occurrences at Bath, the Lord knows who, from the Lord knows where, have too frequently over-ſtept natives, perhaps more worthy of public favour, whilſt ſeeking the bubble fame.

Would time and circumſtances permit, the original evil ought to be the firſt cruſhed, but hanging on conſequences are requiſite firſt to be attended to at home, in order moſt ſpeedily to remedy dearneſs.

My manuſcript, as ſubmitted, in confidence, to J. Symons, Eſq. whilſt filling the office of Mayor of Bath, extended no farther than my ſtatement of the different kinds of produces of farms, occupied by regular farming perſons, or by butchers who farm, ſuckle, &c. &c.

During perhaps the moſt preſſing time hiſtory ſheweth, it is but juſtice to ſay, that gentleman in his mayoralty fulfilled all that could be expected from an impartial, vigilant, magiſtrate.

To encounter cabals about ſcarcity and dearneſs of wheat, as well as meat, &c. was the buſineſs of that year.

The civil opinion which I had the honour of receiving from him, with reſpect to my Remarks, an undertaking, for the good of the public, that overwhelmed me with diſtreſſing ideas, ſufficiently ſhewed his zeal for alleviating the ſufferings of not only the diſtreſſed at Bath, but of the community at large, and that ſuch were near his heart.

Sir,

"*I have read your Obſervations on the High Prices of Proviſions with very great attention, and think they are well founded, but fear the laws in their preſent ſtate, are not ſufficiently coercive to correct the abuſes pointed out in your book, which, if made public, may prove of infinite uſe to the community at large. I ſend you this as my own private opinion, and you are welcome to ſhew it to whom you like.*

Wiſhing you ſucceſs, I remain,

Yours,

Camden-Place, Bath,
Dec. 5, 1795.

J. SYMONS."

Of others who inſtead of merely profeſſing it, ought to have ſhewn liberality, I have not experienced common generoſity.

Owing to greater length of vacation than heretofore, the high prices of proviſions and common

neceſſaries, the inhabitants of Bath were equally if not more heavily, diſtreſſed than thoſe of Middleſex in that year.

I have obſerved, that viſitors heretofore reſorted to Bath, for cheap living, when few diſagreeable topics interfering, the diſcourſe of the day did chiefly run on the excellence, plenty, and cheapneſs of proviſions.

The certainty of procuring proviſions of ſorts the moſt excellent, at cheap rates, drew company as early as September for autumn ſeaſons.

Provided viſitors, who frequented Bath thirty-ſix years ago, are now living, they may recollect that proviſions were then to be procured in the greateſt perfection.

To notice the productions vended at Bath markets, during the laſt ſeven years, were to begin with ſcarcity, inferiority, and dearneſs.

Query. Whether to reſtore the bleſſings of plenty, excellence, and cheapneſs, be or not intereſting, and a proper object for the conſideration of the principal reſidents, traders, and builders, but more eſpecially the body corporate of Bath? In order to invite viſitors to come numerouſly and remain long there, whereby good old empty houſes would again be of uſe to their diſtreſſed owners; finiſhed new houſes would every where let; unfiniſhed houſes would be compleated, and the town would thereby become a more flouriſhing place than it was even heretofore.

Whether moſt of the inhabitants of Bath do not expect to gain livelihoods by the viſitors, ſeeing they have not to boaſt a manufactory.

Whether viſitors, whilſt ſcarcity and dearneſs prevail, will not embrace the firſt convenient moment to leave Bath, for a more cheap ſpring and autumn reſidence?

Whether viſitors would not be pleaſed, many taking up their ſummer reſidences, knowing that plenty of proviſions with cheapneſs or if but moderation, prevailed? Whereas by the prices demanded, if it were not proper to ſay exacted, for houſe lamb, for veal, &c. &c. in the ſhambles, and at town ſhops, by example, ſome pounds per week for marketings, more than formerly genteel perſons, with ſmall families, complained of paying, and left Bath as early as April 1795 and 1796.

Whether it is not our duty to invite perſons to viſit Bath, and how beſt to accommodate them, provided they arrive?

Whether, influenced by the idea of that ſtudy prevailing, greater numbers are not likely to come and remain longer at Bath, than formerly, ſhewing a ſtill greater partiality for the place?

The ſeaſon of 1795, brought a great number of ſtrangers, although a deſperate war prevailed. But dearneſs prevented their early arrival and hurried them away, much too ſoon for thoſe, who, to viſitors, as it were, look up for their bread.

The word at market, previous to Lady-day, became, viz. Bath market, all things conſidered, was equal to, if not dearer than thoſe of London.

Whether it can be recollected at Bath, that fattened bullocks in July, in any year previous to 1796, coſt butchers, of every deſcription, who ſupply with meat, after the rate of three guineas per hundred weight; graſs at the ſame time abundant. Nay, in November bullocks carcaſſed at fifty-four ſhillings per hundred weight; this being the caſe, proves an advance of three-halfpence per pound in one year only.

Whether it can be recollected that, during the hot months of ſummer, calves ſold to retailers at ſix-pence halfpenny per pound; mutton and graſs lamb in common at ſix-pence per pound, in many inſtances much dearer; bacon one ſhilling per pound; pork, cheeſe, and butter equally exorbitant?—Or in October, graſs being abundant, freſh butter at fourteen pence per pound; tallow candles at eleven pence per pound; ſoap, and other common neceſſaries, at prices equally exorbitant?

Whether veal has not formerly been burnt as unwholeſome food? Yet better in quality than has been ſold to poor ſouls at Bath within the three years laſt paſt, being the principal food of the day, at nearly ſix-pence per pound.

Whether, for many years paſt, there has not been a waſte of meat, of good quality, particularly after hot ſummer market days, and during

the months producing foggy nights, hung in any hole (ſuffered not to be expoſed a ſecond day for ſale, even by thoſe whoſe duty was to have ſeen it brought forward) until in a periſhing ſtate, to the diſtreſſed owners (nearly heart broken) almoſt uſeleſs, unfit to be eat by mankind, inaſmuch as to ſtir up God's wrath againſt rulers and the place where ſuch abomination has repeatedly, year after year, been known to them, but diſregarded.

But perhaps the great diſpoſer of things, ſet apart this time for remedy. Moreover, that with obſtinate rulers, obſtinate error may have paſſed away.

Whether in fact it can be ſaid, that many, if not the greater part of the butchers, who ſupply with meat at Bath, at this time, farm not. Or, that Bath, Briſtol, and other neighbouring markets were not heretofore ſupplied as plentifully and cheap from neighbouring farms, as I have ſtated, or that farms at this juncture produce uſual, or needful ſupplies for the exiſting multitude.

Whether ſeeing that thoſe farms heretofore whilſt in the hands of regular farming perſons did afford proper ſupplies of food, &c. and that at this juncture they do not afford half ſufficient, if the magiſtrates who can regulate or amend errors by their vigilance, remedy ſuch diſaſters, it would not be admitted meritorious; in which caſe viſitors might rely with ſafety, on finding Bath in future a place for cheap living; provided at Bath example be firſt ſhewn it will appear prudent, neighbour-

ing towns would follow, it is the neighbourhood where firſt the evil rooted, where it will ſtare you in the face, no matter the path.

Butchers who dwell in the neighbouring villages, town butchers by example are become perhaps more numerous who farm and ſuckle, than ſupplying with meat any other town in England, wherefore the enormous prices of proviſions, butter in particular may be accounted for.

Good paſture lands have been broke up for building, depriving thereby the inhabitants of many comforts, but that is not of more conſequence than one mite compared with the general calamities of the day.

Were more diſtant farms properly cultured ſupplies for extended want-ſtricken Bath would come abundantly, but which in vain may be ſought until the evils I complain of be removed.

The corporation of Bath, allowing them bred as gentlemen, cannot be (with good reaſon) expected to have a knowledge which experience alone can make men competent to, as how beſt to act between and manage its markets for the greateſt ſatisfaction of viſitors, the welfare of inhabitants, and the encouragement of thoſe who bring in ſupplies of food, of courſe inexperience with ſeeming good intention too frequently let in errors.

For three reaſons in the foregoing work, I have quoted paſſages from agriculturiſt writers, firſt, becauſe they are known to be men of real experience; ſecondly, have declared themſelves incom-

petent reſpecting the nature of native breeds of cattle; thirdly, I am inclined to offer a future work to explain more fully native breeds, and errors of croſſing, with other matter, mean while, premiums to rear and produce Somerſetſhire and Glouceſterſhire bullocks would tend to general welfare.

Much may be ſaid reſpecting regulations for Bath markets, future time may produce a ſubject to introduce it. Herein, thoſe who may incline to general welfare, a mode may be found, but there ſtill remaineth what time and circumſtances permit not to inſert.

One thing obſerved, will ſerve the inhabitants generally—open again the butchers market for an every day's ſale. Perſons with little money ought at leaſt to have the comforts of choice, which produces moderate cheapneſs.

Meat unſold one day ought to be expoſed the next week day, to prevent riſking to offend our heavenly Giver by waſte.

The idea of a cheap loaf is pleaſant enough, but meat being an abſolute neceſſary ſhould be reaſonable.

The people enjoyed great comforts when the market of Bath was open for butchers every week day, good family pieces of beef, and joints of other meat, ſmall articles were bought cheap as herein ſtated; a ſheep's head was bought for two-pence, but in 1796, ſeven-pence was the price for a ſtript ſheep's head, all other ſmall articles proportionately dear.

Scarcity has been occaſioned by ſuckling, but dearneſs by many means.

The moſt certain means, mark.

Dearneſs has been brought on at Bath by perſons who purchaſe living fattened cattle by weight, more than any other means, unſeaſonable deſtroying of young ſtock excepted only; alſo by ſhutting up the every day's market for meat, which curtailed the choice. An every day meat market, would regulate prices to reaſon. By opening again an every day market for meat viſitors will find choice, will be enabled to do much towards remedying of dearneſs, whilſt it will ſhew a juſt ſenſe of the late enormity. Moreover, deſire, in reality for alleviating the miſeries of the people.

Spare, O ſpare a thought.

There are in Bath, whoſe little all is nearly ſunk.

Handicrafts, a ſhilling for a day of ſickneſs cannot ſtore; for what uſed to coſt one penny only, nearly three-pence goeth out: one inſtance may ſuffice.

One penny worth of pigs fry heretofore weighed one pound in lump. At this juncture, one pound of pig's liver, &c. by weight ſix-pence.

Think of their not having brought the load on themſelves, and if poſſible to fathom the ill conſequences of ſhutting out butchers from daily offering commodities in nature periſhable, think of waſte, the reſult of oppreſſion. Meat was ordained by God himſelf to be eaten ere the third day paſſed away: but at Bath ſkilful well meaning butchers have been deprived of expoſing meat a ſecond day until dead perhaps ſix days, and of doing good, whilſt the inexperienced encouraged have not only done the chief of the miſchief, but amaſſed riches,

Skilful induſtrious butchers, who farmed not, ſuckled not, have been reduced to poverty. Turn the eye through the town and ſhambles, the laſt twenty years will prove ſuch unhappy events numerous : whereas it will be difficult to find one inſtance of a farming ſuckling butcher's failure.

Town butchers ought to be better provided for, who pay all town aſſeſſments, ſtriving againſt a power of advantages inconceivable, the lot of thoſe who pay no town tax at all.

Skilful butchers have experienced great loſs, greater mortification applying for lots of goods here and there, ſince the unhappy event of veal being ſold, and living fattened goods bought by weight.

I have ſtated that ſtaged calves at the deareſt time of the ſeaſon, thirty-ſix years ago, of thirty-ſix pounds, and to forty pounds per quarter, were bought by hand at fifty ſhillings per calf.

Calves at forty pounds per quarter have been ſold in Bath market dead, to retail, owing to ſuch having been bought living in the country, by weight at high ſums, viz. amounting to perhaps ſix guineas and an half, or upwards.

If a ſuckling coſt one guinea and an half, nearly five guineas appears to be the pay for about ten weeks milk and chalk, next year ſucklers, rather than diſpenſe with ſuch profits, may give two guineas, or more for ſucklings, (if ſo) who will rear, where ſuch ought to be reared ? oh ſtop this practice, in the name of charity, or what will be the end thereof.

Unſeaſonable diminution of our young ſtock, the prices paid for veal by conſumers, may not be won-

dered at, ſeeing there are to be found who purchaſe animals weighable by weight.

Butchers who farm not merit encouragement for bringing good meat to Bath. But ſuch have ſtood a market day, with great quantities dearly bought in, and not turned one ſhilling: nay, have not been aſked the price of three joints, yet deprived till next market day of chance of ſale, weather good or bad.

An every week day's ſale for meat reſtored, competent ſkilful butchers, who farm not, (would no doubt) expoſe good meat, chiefly, if not wholly bought living by hand, which would ſpeedily eradicate enormity, let in moderation of prices. The account given of prices, &c. of lean bullocks at Lanſdown fair, 1796, loſs of the native breeds of cattle in a ſmall circle around Briſtol and Bath, may account for the high prices of butter. The Agricultural Report of prices paid for lean ſtock in Yorkſhire, permits of ſaying, the enſuing winter who will be able to withſtand?

An every day market will in a great meaſure prevent diſaſter, and give conſumers a chance to deal where cattle has been bought by hand, rendering general benefit.

The Bath proviſion committee taking into conſideration means uſed with public money at Hull, would probably here do infinite general good by imitating the ſame, ſee Bath Journal, July, 4, 1796.

Perſons may be found who would merit ſuch aſſiſtance to buy fattened ſtock at fairs and markets by hand, to work out a pernicious practice, viz.

buying by weight. Diſcretionally ſmall loans might be well applied.

Milk is trebly dearer than heretofore, becauſe the neighbouring fields are wrong cultured, being now chiefly given to calves, diſtreſſing the inhabitants ſick or well.

By failures, ſaid (chiefly) owing to houſehold outgoings, empty houſes ſerve to manifeſt that a remedy is much wanted at Bath: wherefore let all conſider, that all can peaceably and affectionately work out thoſe evils. I have ſtated the neceſſary caution, which to obſerve, the work will be done; its good effect will ſpread to the dwellers in Middleſex, and elſewhere. Embrace the reward within your reach, ſerve preſent ſufferers, ſerve poſterity; in the name of goodneſs let us endeavour for permanent plenty.

Farming perſons in the courſe of thirty-ſix years, by innumerable chances, occaſioned by the deep rooted original cauſe (which I abide by) have had innumerable advantages thrown in their way, Cannot ſuch afford a turn of the ſcale?

To be deprived of choice, or by any ſpecies of art worked up to pay for meat, cheeſe, &c. as of late, (if not unfair) has been too ſevere for the needy and the poor: more moderate prices would do to pay well enough, and for the deareſt rented lands in England.

Where there is no victuals in the houſe it is hard threatening ſeizures for taxes: were common neceſ-

ſaries at moderate prices, ſuch might have been prepared for. However, nought can put things ſo well to right as the bleſſed regulator—plenty. It is worth obſerving, although dry weather, or a few days of froſt has a ſad effect upon Bath market, eſpecially on butter, it is not ſo much the caſe at even neighbouring towns, which is a certain proof how ill the neighbouring farms are cultured.

Provided it were ſaid, that I have recommended an every day meat market for ſelf intereſt; be it underſtood, (nearly worn out in the ſervice of the public), were trifling advantages to offer, and be mine, ſuch muſt ſhorly terminate with me.

I have found it hard, to labour thirty-ſix years for a ſmall reward, againſt thoſe whoſe practices my Creator permitted I ſhould thus notice; for ſuch have counteracted God's bounties, and perplexed a whole nation.

Not to have explained the ills which are the reſult of thoſe practices, on my part, would have been unjuſt.

The calamities having not been the work of a day, neither our ſufferings thoſe of one ſeaſon, patience muſt be our guide. The multitude in Middleſex as well as the whole of the community, are dependent on Parliament for the moſt ſpeedy remedy: on the other hand, on you who dwell near where bullocks and ſheep, ſwine, cheeſe, &c. &c. ſhould be found.

Of the great there are, who by dealing in cattle, particularly in the north, have amaſſed incredible

ſums to add to great fortunes from returns by dealing therein, to perhaps fifty thouſand pounds per annum. The conſequence thereof is, viz. ſmall ſcots, ſuch as a few years ago were bought in poor at about three pounds per head, in 1796, yielded eleven pounds: does not this prove the lamentable loſs of our ſtock in the Midland counties of England, the chief of the diſaſters falling upon conſumers? However, to do according to the remarks herein contained, is the ſure way to put an end to a practice, which is but of few years ſtanding, and were to be ſure of once again finding our neighbouring farms properly ſtocked with cattle, ſwine, poultry, cheeſe, &c. &c. for regular farmers will not fail to rear, raiſe, and make up of all ſorts of marketings to make up their neceſſary returns: but above all for yours, and your diſtant fellow creatures comforts.

Think of ſufferings in garrets, or at the remoteſt country hut, and you will ſhew a proper ſpirit of vigilance, Chriſtian concern, trying to leſſen miſeries almoſt become habitual, your reward for ſo doing is in heaven.

The Bath waters for centuries have done miraculous cures, are the gift of God, whoſe power is ſuch, were he to command, how certain would they ceaſe to flow, which God forbid.

The Parliament of England moſt ſpeedily, the public leſs ſpeedily, but as certainly, may prevent evermore ſuch diſaſters being experienced on the face of Britiſh earth, which God grant.

I now beg leave to return my ſincereſt thanks to thoſe who deigned to aſſiſt me, by becoming ſubſcribers for this work.

FINIS.